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Dissertation:

The evolution development of mountain areas in Greece



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## **ABSTRACT**

Mountain areas play a key role in the process of regional, agriculture, economic and sustainable development in Greece. This study presents all the aspects of mountainous areas development, including the basic characteristics of those areas, the difficulties, the disparities and the policies in order to achieve the best possible viability and sustainability.

**Keywords:** Mountain areas, Agricultural policies, Regional disparities, Sustainable development, Tourism

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	2
Acknowledgments.....	3
List of tables.....	6
Acronyms.....	7
CHAPTER 1: Introduction.....	8
1.1 Research area.....	8
1.2 Aim and objectives.....	9
1.3 Structure of the dissertation.....	9
CHAPTER 2: Mountain Regions.....	11
2.1 Concept and determination of mountain areas.....	11
2.1.1 Characteristics of mountain areas.....	12
2.1.2 Production sectors.....	16
2.2 The real problems in Greek mountain areas .....	19
2.2.1 Less favored areas and mountain regions .....	22
2.2.2 Regional disparities.....	25
2.3 Conclusions.....	31
CHAPTER 3: Progress of agricultural structures in mountain zones.....	32
3.1 The European Union and the agriculture policies.....	32
3.1.1 Common agriculture policy.....	33
3.2 Agricultural development in Greek mountain areas.....	35
3.2.1 Fundamentals of agricultural holdings.....	37
3.2.2 European Community Initiatives.....	40
3.2.3 Development Programs and Funding in mountainous areas.....	48
3.3 Conclusions.....	51
CHAPTER 4: Sustainable development and mountainous areas.....	52
4.1 Policies for the sustainable growth of mountainous areas .....	53
4.2 Prospects of the agricultural sector .....	57
4.3 Conclusions .....	64
CHAPTER 5: Viable development in mountainous areas.....	65
5.1 Tourist development in mountainous regions.....	65
5.1.1 Alternative forms of tourism.....	67
5.2 Necessary the sustainable tourism for the mountain areas.....	68

5.3 Entrepreneurship, participation in agriculture and cooperatives.....	71
5.4 Conclusions.....	74
CHAPTER 6: Conclusions.....	75
References.....	77

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The 10 most Mountainous Greek Counties.....	26
Table 2: Population change.....	27
Table 3: Evolution of housing.....	27
Table 4: Mountainous rate % for the ten most Mountainous Counties.....	28
Table 5: GDP growth for the 10 most Mountainous Counties.....	28
Table 6: prosperity of the ten most Mountainous Counties.....	29
Table 7: Investment progress according to the 10 most Mountainous Counties.....	30
Table 8: Tourism development in the 10 most Mountainous Counties.....	31
Table 9: Own data processing of the NSSG.....	36
Table 10: Own data processing of the NSSG.....	37
Table 11: Positive and negative impacts of tourism.....	66

## ACRONYMS

AIO: Agricultural Insurance Organization  
CAP: Common Agricultural Policy  
CI: Community Initiative  
CGAP: Code of Good Agricultural Practice  
CMD: Common Ministerial Decision  
CSF: Community Support Framework  
EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development  
ECA: European Court of Auditions  
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization  
GSGE: general Secretariat for Gender Equality  
IMP: Integrated Mediterranean Program  
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change  
LAG: Local Action Groups  
LFA: Less Favored Area  
MRDF: Ministry of Rural Development and Food  
NSSG: national Statistical Service of Greece  
NTO: National Tourism Organization  
PDO: Protected Designation of Origin  
PGI: Protected Geographical Indications  
RDPD: Rural Development Planning Document  
RDP: Rural Development Program  
RES: Renewable Energy Sources  
SARD-M: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions

## **CHAPTER 1: Introduction**

### **1.1 Research area**

In recent years, the fact that the mountainous regions of Greece, and the world - have decisive importance for the lives of people, it is becoming increasingly clear. The water, the food and the energy, are the primary available sources, with which the mountain ranges maintain the life in the planet. The world supplies of drinking water, up to 80 %, are located in the mountains (<http://www.econews.gr/2012/12/03/pagkosmia-imera-vounon-2012/>).

Simultaneously, the mountain areas constitute notable outbreaks of wealth, since it is very rich in biodiversity, forestry and mineral resources while offering high-quality local ingredients.

In addition, in inaccessible mountainous areas have evolved local cultures, symmetrical adapted in unique, immaculate, local natural environment, the techniques and practices of survival which are invaluable traditional knowledge and the people's wisdom for the next generations. The crucial importance of mountains for human life is at the same time economic, political, social, environmental and cultural range. However, the mountainous regions and populations are threatened by a series of dangers, both environmental and social.

Greece together with Austria constitute the adapting their countries of the European Union. The mountain communities of Greece cover 77,9% of the total surface area, in accordance with the survey done in 2011, the percentage of upland and upland municipalities, touches the 61.6% while the rate of 71.3 % of the country is the extent. Worldwide, the mountains cover 1/5 of the Earth's surface. There lives almost 10-12% of the world's population, despite the fact that more than half of the world's population supports, directly or indirectly, the survival of, the mountains (<http://www.econews.gr/2012/12/03/pagkosmia-imera-vounon-2012/>).

The mountainous regions of Greece and the world in general, are obsessed with risks and problems. Climate change, deforestation, natural disasters, desertification, the overexploitation of upland heritage, the degradation of mountain ecosystems and the loss of the mountain biodiversity in conjunction with the population exodus of most mountain regions, with the fact that the mountain populations are among the poorest of each country, with the unilateral tourist



exploitation, with the deficiencies in basic social and technical bases and end with the gradual elimination of local cultures, make up only briefly, risks which threaten daily mountain areas.

Despite the importance and seriousness of the problems they face, the mountain areas come for the first time at the forefront of global discussions, until 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit. Since then, the direction of sustainable development of mountain areas has been important steps. The inhabitants of the mountain regions, which form an integral part of the natural and cultural environment, should be the driving force behind this integrated development.

## **1.2 Aim and objectives**

The purpose of this diplomatic work, poses as a key objective the determination of mountain areas of Greece as well as the evolution and development. Consideration shall be given to the Greek mountain area in the light of a combined sectoral and development approach while investigated the factors that have contributed to marginalization and desertification. In addition, the policies and the mechanisms that have been programmed or even applied for its development. They analyzed the changes brought about by tourism in the economic and social structures of a mountainous region, while identifying the conditions that contribute to the development of mountain areas utilizing any special notes.

This aim, concentrate on the following objectives:

- to more accurately display the shape of Greek mountain areas
- To investigate the factors that lead to exclusion of these areas
- In consideration of agricultural structures in mountain areas
- The analysis of sustainable and viable development through tourism and entrepreneurship

## **1.3 Structure of the dissertation**

This work is divided into five parts. In the first part, is identified the mountain areas of Greece while at the same time analyzed and the issue of less-favored areas (LFAs)

associated to a large extent with these areas. The second part deals with the rural structures of mountain areas in conjunction with the Rural Development Programs and policies of the European Union. The third part includes information related to the sustainable development of mountain areas and the fifth part analyzed the perspectives of sustainable development for these areas, through tourism and entrepreneurship. Finally, compare the findings.

## **CHAPTER 2: Mountain regions**

This chapter deals with all the characteristics of the mountain areas of Greece. More specifically, underlines the special characteristics, as well as also referred to separately in the productive sectors to identify economic and social mountain areas. Furthermore, analysis of the less-favored areas (LFAs) and compare indicative measures for dealing with the problems of these regions. The 11th day of December was established by the United Nations in 2003 as International Mountain Day. It is an opportunity to raise awareness among the people about the importance of mountain areas in our lives, to identify the opportunities and the constraints on the development of mountain areas and to awaken partnerships that will result in positive changes for upland areas.

### **2.1 Concept and determination of mountain areas**

The appearance of an area, is a fluctuating concept with many different manifestations depending on the space and time. In this way, each region stands out from the crowd with its unique landscape, which is characterized by its geographical location, the cultural heritage, the history, the soil and climatic conditions and the special characteristics of dwellings and the local society. By defining the concept of space and place, literature indicates that the site is an abstract concept, therefore itself, it is neither nature nor special figure (Stefanou, 2000), while the place is a unique spatial fact, constituted by all the characteristics of any kind associated with them (Guadary, 1991).

However, the figure as a concept is also in the geographical and geophysical data, but also from the political and economic systems which affected the catalytic site and the place with collective awareness and cultural sense. In fact, the figure of a region is the result of the site and its historical development (Sienkowska, 1990). More specifically, it refers to the way in which a human group benefited both of its own virtues and the virtues of the area in which it is installed, acted and developed collective conscience and culture (Stefanou, 1999). The figure is a concept central to humans.

The mountain areas are a vital area with multiple functions. Stand out for their particular natural and cultural elements, although governed by their production

activities, which are often agricultural. An important element of the landscape, it is the productive specialization of farms. The mountain regions are important development problems that the place in the focus of interest both of policies, as well as the scientists who specialize in development issues (Gaitanidou, 2001).

The residents of mountain areas have a particular and unique behavior in relation to their way of life, which is directly connected with what provides the rich, natural environment while at the same time, is based on a remarkable cultural characteristics. The mountain regions as the most primary and inseparable unity of the natural, social and economic realities and the multifaceted διαλεκτικών interactions, interactions and relations, which in turn influenced and continue to define jointly, even made by historically favorable fields for harmonious, creative and peaceful co-existence of man and the uniqueness and beauty of nature.

The endless horizons, the struggle for survival, the incessant effort to satisfy even the real needs and the ongoing races with the extreme natural phenomena, as well as the inventive treatment of natural hazards and disasters, shaped characters simple, austere and decent, with an open mind and unenslaved consciences. The people of mountain regions, created cultures and established development standards development a different knowledge, appropriate technology and indigenous wisdom. At the same time, supported myths, beliefs, shreds and academic speculation a higher ratio of their inhabitants with the supernal and sulfur (Rokos, 2012).

As a result, combining a rich natural environment with a significant fauna and flora, as well as the care with the dependence of residents with the environment, have been valuable traditional settlements, which in turn are a magnet for thousands of visitors for several years. In this way, the mountain areas there are considerable opportunities for creation and development methods development, which shall be based on the sustainable management of resources through gentler to the environment activities, such as, for example, the mountain tourism.

### **2.1.1 Characteristics of mountain areas**

As mountainous regions, are characterized by municipalities or settlements which are in accordance with the Council Directive 81/645 EEC of the following characteristics:

- Areas in which the geographical area is located at an altitude of 800 meters

- Areas in which the geographical area is located between 600 and 800 meters, while the slope of the soil is at least 16%
- Areas in which the geographical area is located at an altitude of 600 meters, while the gradients of soil is at least 20 %.

Almost 10% of the total population of the planet resides in mountain areas large altitudes, where the issue of survival is a daily struggle and is directly dependent on what offer the mountains. In lower mountain areas, live a larger percentage of the world's population, around 40% which also depends directly on the mountains, in particular from the water. Today, on the basis of the statistics international organizations, 80% of the inhabitants of the mountain areas of the world, which is estimated at around 500 million people, live below the poverty line while the valuable natural augment them, such as water, the timber, minerals, energy, agricultural and livestock food products and medicinal plants, enhance both the economic and the social life of the inhabitants of the lowland areas.

Greece consists of 61.5% of mountain and hill areas, covering a total area of 55,794 million acres where he resides in 56, 8% of the non-urban population, as can be seen from the census of agriculture livestock of NSSG.

### **Physical characteristics**

The mountain areas are recognized by the EU as a particular category of rural areas which distinguishes it from other rural areas (European Commission, 2009). It shows specific characteristics which distinguish them from other areas. Common axis of mountain regions and ecosystems is combining rapid changes in altitude, the climate, soil and vegetation. Also, the mountain areas are biological view, rich stores species, ecosystems and biodiversity as well as the great distance from the major population - urban centers often results in fewer interventions from the side of man.

As follows, the mountains are often refuge for plants and animals, including a large number of pharmaceutical and nutritional values, missing most of the modern human activities. The mountain regions are the prostate a wide variety plants and animals (Koutsouris, 2010). Greece is especially mountainous country. The mountainous terrain of volume it occupies an area 77.6 million hectares, of which 13.08 (17 %) are cultivatable area, 36.42 (47 %) is grazing and the 24.02 (31 %) are forests (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001).

The mountainous rate of an area or a geographical area depends on both the altitude and the other physical characteristics, such as climatic conditions and the morphology of larger-scale, involving difficult access to and from it. Therefore, the mountainous rate has largely social, economic and cultural isolation (Varvaresos and Soteriades, 2004).

### **Demographic and social characteristics**

The mountain areas, were always point residence indigenous peoples who after their isolation from the lowlands, shaped and developed activities balanced with the natural environment and ensuring their self. Today, the Greek mountain area is characterized by sparse population. While the mountain areas cover almost half of the country's sizes, with 42%, simultaneously collect only 9% of the population, resulting in low population density in relation to the rest of Greece (NSSG).

The 1950s began a massive population movement to the cities as a result of the war but the centralized model economic development adopted by post-war governments (Rokos, 1980). The massive abandonment of mountain areas, in addition to demographic had social and cultural consequences. The reduction in population has led to a gradual elimination of traditional elements directly related to the history and culture of the country. Customs, mores, traditional skills and techniques, local music and habits have been lost to the passage of years.

Upland areas may be classified as follows:

- Developed upland areas: areas with a permanent population, large settlements, dynamic livestock, forest exploitation, traditional crafts, tourism and vacations, accessibility to major urban centers and major transport routes
- Dynamic mountain areas with unexplored resources: areas with a significant but declining population and undeveloped agricultural, cultural and environmental resources. There is access to the major centers of population and in addition worthwhile and successful initiatives endogenous development of local bodies
- Internal mountain areas: areas with declining population and percentage mountain population over twice the national average. There are accustomed

agricultural and environmental resources but problems and environmental degradation from soil erosion, forest fires, non-maintenance works and monuments. It is most of them border or isolated from the large urban centers

- Other continental mountain areas: scattered areas with limited scope, which are smaller and less dynamic factors
- Mountain areas especially small islands: the outlook is directly associated with the prospects of islander economy

The existence of permanent natural handicaps, such as the altitude, slope and the ground, the problems of access due to insufficient network infrastructure and transport, the population stripping and the age of the aging population are limiting factors for the development of mountain areas and thus compounding the disadvantage compared with other regions (Campagne et al. , 1990). Despite the differences, there are certain common characteristics for all types' mountain areas which make up the negative traits (Rokos 2001, Papadimitos and Rokos 2001, Kokkosis and Tsartas 2001, Efthymiades et al 2004):

- Demographic aging and shrinking of the population
- Low levels of education of the population
- Unsatisfactory housing conditions
- "Marginalized" policies and equally limited economic organization
- Reduction of production and the efficiency of the primary sector, although it is an important sector in the structure of local products and employment
- Shortcomings in road network and transportation incidents
- Environmental degradation of upland areas and national parks from the non-adequate control of grazing
- Lack of infrastructure rational management of pasture land in accordance with the rules of the range management
- Pressure on agricultural employment and the growth of unemployment
- The mountain volume consequent negative as regards the opportunity to import machinery in agriculture
- Insufficient protection of agricultural land with regard to changes in the use and the partition

- Also, accelerated the pace of agricultural holdings with the use of fertilizers because of limited competitiveness of production
- The single activity
- Insufficient development in the secondary sector and in particular in the sector of processing industry
- Finally, the characteristic impairment of technical and social bases

These issues, possibly to be intensified over the years due to the effects of the unpleasant climate change but also from the pressures of globalization. In accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change) climate change in mountain regions will "cause" (Papadimitos and Rokos, 2001):

- Rise in density of natural disasters with considerable losses in terms of human lives and belongings
- Changes in the wetness of areas, snow and the concentration of ice, with negative effects on the quality and quantity of water resources as well as the hydro-electric power production energy
- Shifts of ecological and field-ecological zones, with underline consequences for the maintenance of existing ecosystems, farms and endangered species as well as potential impacts on trees and crops.
- Changes in resources of vital importance for tourism, such as the magical landscapes, the need for the skiing snow and the desired weather conditions.

### **2.1.2 Production sectors**

Among the three production sectors, in the Greek mountain area, there is a strong asymmetry, which must be taken seriously in the design and implementation of development programs. The primary sector cover 48, 7% of the labor force in mountain areas and in fact, is the cradle of their economic support. The secondary sector, garnering 20.4% of the employment potential, expresses and the greater lag compared with the other two while, the tertiary sector, the services as a whole, comprise the 30.9% (Development Plan Mountain area, 200-2006).



The producers of mountain and upland areas of Greece always were disadvantaged in relation with the producers of large, fertile plains. This happens not only because they were available to the limited area, but also they had limited choice crops. Apple and cherry are solutions for areas such as Pelion and Vermio mountains and some even our mountains and in relatively low altitude.

The period between 1990 and 2007 the course of agricultural structures in upland less favored and dynamic areas of Greece, has been fragmented. The natural disadvantages of these regions, reflected in the financial results of their holdings.

### **Primary sector**

The pastures are the largest and most extensive use in land use in upland areas. In mountainous areas, is mainly carried sheep and goat. Because of the systematic breeding animals, mountain areas have often important comparative advantage in production of biological products and Product Designations of Origin and Geographical Indication.

### **Secondary sector**

Secondary sector is governed by small sector companies of food and beverages. Sectors such as wood, marble and building materials often exhibit activity in the mountain areas. There are also potential production designer quality products, such as its wonderful cheeses (and wine, with the processing of products quality of primary sector. The development of craft and handicraft is possible through the promotion of tourism.

### **Tertiary sector**

In tertiary sector remarkable activity is tourism. Often, there is insufficient use of ecosystems and of national parks, as well as the cultural resources of the mountain area. In addition, for the development of tourism may be necessary to upgrade the quality of services, the creation support infrastructures, the interconnection of tourism with other sectors of the economy and the organized view of valuable elements of the mountain area.

In this context, the duality of production and economy of mountain regions implies the following results of activity (Robinson, 2007):

- Agriculture and powerful low-intensity forest systems
- Strong element of tradition both in crops and in houses
- The mountain areas with difficulty competing with the massive markets because of the difficulty in communication, the distance from large urban centers
- On the other hand, mountain areas have a comparative advantage due to the environmental and cultural properties resulting from their economic activities

Other potential economic impacts refer to foodstuffs, the adequacy of timber, in employment, the elimination of poverty, health and education. These areas are not always clearly visible. The diverse program of the Food and Agriculture Organization (2005-2007), for sustainable agriculture and the development of mountain regions points out that in the event that the standards in the fight against poverty in mountain areas have not been implemented or do not produce, then going for negative externalities of their economy.

Some of the externalities are not insurmountable. Both the water and the entertainment can both be given knowingly and, secondly, to charge them. Increasingly, has opened the way for the carbon sequestration markets. There is need for a flexible approach in relation to externalities and productive forces in mountainous regions, mainly because of the problems and weaknesses with the passing of time. Besides, there are ways to improve the economic and social development of these areas.

In mountainous areas, cultural, characteristic landscapes and traditional land uses are common. On the other hand, the scope for intensive and efficient use of land and mechanization is a different and limited. Thus, the positive externalities in mountainous areas tend to be higher than in all the fields. Hodge (2000), identifies mountain areas is exemplified by positive external effects on agriculture, with a remarkable cultural and environmental value as well as a particular penchant for collaborative work.

Due to the isolation suffered by the mountain areas, the daily survival is based on autonomy and independence. At the same time, they become particularly vulnerable areas with significant biodiversity hot spots, wildlife and endemic species, considering how much care manage their natural environment and the specific soil and climatic conditions prevailing in them.

The mountainous areas consequence of the height of steep terrain slopes and adverse weather conditions, especially during winter, exhibit difficulties in activities related to land use. Something like that results from the limited use of machinery, which will in turn leads to an increase of labor costs with the result that coordinate their respective investment efforts in that area. Consequently, the economic performance of various sectors of production cannot be compared with the economic efficiency of the respective disciplines of urban areas. Accordingly, in the highlands are observed fewer opportunities occupation, limited incomes and low confidence on the part of residents with a result reduce both population and production activities.

## **2.2 The real problems in Greek mountain areas**

Although there is no specific definition associated with the marginalized (marginal) regions of the European world, the less favored areas defined from the earliest texts of the European Union, Directive of Less Favored Areas (Less favored directive, EEC, 1975).

The Greek mountainous areas consist of large areas with fragile natural and human ecosystems, with many risks to govern as erosions and landslides. The steep slopes and altitudinal gradients favor the genesis of rare and specific species as well as geomorphologic formations remarkable aesthetic value. Moreover, the mountains are sources of water and timber, while the land is suitable for crops organically. It places strong cultural value and action because the monuments of historical and archaeological sites and traditional forms of housing (Beriatos, 2005).

The so-called marginalized areas are non embedded portions of the respective national area (Beriatos, 2005). For the significant proportion of 65% collected by the Greek mountainous areas, imperfections and risks are weak attempts at management

areas but also in stripping them both economic activities and of active population. However, the "marginalized" Greece upland areas should be a privileged space for further economic and social development.

One of the biggest problems in the Greek mountain area, is the reduction of the population, and thus converted into a highly vulnerable social and economic whole. With the passage of time, this reduction is developing rapidly. Probably, in the next few decades the geo climatic and geo economic conditions to look again the human interest to the mountain area, not only to reside there, but to become involved with organic farming and forestry.

The phenomenon of mass migration from the villages to the urban centers, which identified the decades of 1950, 1960 and 1970, led to the desertification of the Greek mountain areas. The massive withdrawal of mountain population is attributed to a large extent on unpleasant confrontations of the civil war and persecution which followed the years of national resistance to the German occupation. Each mountain village is built with pride of his personal history as well as the wounds from the havoc of war and the civil division (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001).

The marginalization, isolation and the aging are the main problems facing the Greek mountainous region today. The reduction of the population has burden on the social and economic fabric of the areas making them fragile (Beriatos, 2005). If young people remained in their places of origin, then the dynamics of the region would have developed paving the way for new opportunities for jobs and growth (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001). The opinions of young people around the plethora of educational opportunities, working and entertaining nature, associated with living in urban centers, are the most important reason to leave their villages. This belief is reinforced by the media falsely claiming standards for the development of mountainous areas through the consumption patterns of urban centers (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001).

Understanding the comparative advantages of the economic factors of urban areas, the Greek mountainous areas still accepts a threat. Productive activities and human interference degrades environmental and aesthetic mountainous areas and their ecosystems, building massively dysfunctional ski facilities.

One more risk for mountain areas, derived from the construction of infrastructures especially road networks. The lifting of the isolation is undoubtedly a real need and a real threat to the mountainous area. The isolation of the highlands has become the main limiting factor for their development, but has contributed to the preservation of a priceless and genuine natural environment.

The major manufacturing sector in the highlands is the primary and most specifically the agriculture, livestock and forestry. Both institutional and organizational weaknesses of the wider Greek agriculture reduce the efficiency of the agricultural sector, the competitiveness of their products and producers' incomes. The specific problems facing the Greek, mountainous areas, are summarized as follows:

- Conventional farms, small in size
- The seasonal restrictions on certain agricultural activities
- Underinvestment in agriculture
- The discrepancy between the rural population and the participation rate of agricultural production in GDP
- The low competitiveness of agricultural products
- The connection insipid sectors of economic activity among them
- The great age of agricultural workers, and involving "age deficit" (Papageorgiou, 1997).

Main source of income for people in mountainous areas, was always the livestock, which however shows a decrease in the number of animal units in these areas. The abandonment of agriculture, automatically led to the discontinuation of production of forage crops in upland areas, making them dependent on lowland areas to meet their needs. As a result, the highlands made irrational use of pastures (Papanastasis, 1995).

Equally serious problem facing the forestry industry, since forests increasingly reduced from unfettered logging and fires. The existence cadastral nationwide, difficult to maintain and protect the Greek woodland, which for the most part, covers the highlands.

Additionally, overtrading tourism has a major influence on these mountainous zones demoting them aesthetically and environmentally, often due to poor construction design and operation. The direct and indirect squandering of natural resources and landscapes through discontinuous and non proactive mistakenly pursues a growth without limits (Tsipiras, 1999). Also, the planning construction of infrastructure is to revoke the isolation partially borne by mountains. On the one hand, remove the isolation which slows their growth, on the other hand enhances the preservation of natural environment invaluable (Beriatos, 2005).

The problems of Greek mountain areas today are directly related to local particularities and peculiarities, climatic, morphological, both human and economic. The mountainous regions of Greece, however, differ and require equally different policy applications to the problems to be addressed. According to Beriatos (2005), the problems of mountain areas, which implement development programs are identified:

- The weak link between development actions at municipal and regional level
- The strong competition among the economic sectors of the mountainous region
- And finally, the inability adoption and integration of development activities at the local level

The highlands, however, in an integrated design that will include updating of policies, exploitation of all media research, coordination of development programs and proper utilization of funds organized as strategic planning for optimal management of upland areas.

### **2.2.1 Less favored areas and mountain regions**

The production model of agriculture that prevailed in Europe after the war, reinforced the differences in productivity and incomes among farmers in the European Union. This happened because many areas have failed to respond to the productive development model. Gradually, people living in these disadvantaged areas, weakened. Then came the plan for Less Favored Areas, which for a long time been the only effective structural measure of EU rural policy (Dax and Hellegers, 2000). This Plan was adopted in 1975 by Directive 75/268 (Commission of the European

Communities, 1975) and his main goal was the realization of the continuation of agricultural activity, maintaining a low population levels even and retention of rural farmers in the these disadvantaged areas through the provision of compensation to compensate for the unfavorable natural conditions.

LFAs are those who "threatened with depopulation<sup>1</sup> and maintain the countryside is necessary. Consist of agricultural areas which are homogeneous in terms of natural production conditions and must be of limited productivity<sup>2</sup>, soil unsuitable for cultivation or intensification with limited capabilities that cannot be increased except at excessive cost and mainly suitable for extensive livestock "(Journal of the European Communities, 19.05.75, N128/97 75/268). The disadvantaged areas are usually municipalities, communities or settlements that are homogeneous zones and are characterized by low population density, sterile soil and low incomes. The developmental lag, was mainly due to permanent physical characteristics that prevent the installation of modern business and economic activities necessary for the wider economic development. Their access in major urban centers and markets are problematic, while the social capital available is exhausted with limited capacity to contribute to development. The sum of these attributes, leading to population stagnation-even-contraction after the pull for permanent habitation is small due to limited employment opportunities, high cost of living and low standards of living. Failure to provide adequate services in health, education, culture, entertainment and access to administrative bodies form less favored areas.

As areas with specific handicaps defined "small areas affected by specific handicaps, in which maintaining agricultural activity is necessary to ensure the preservation of agricultural countryside and tourist potential, and for coastal protection. The total area such areas do not exceed in a Member State, 2.5% of the area of "(Journal of the European Communities, 05.19.75, N128/97 75/268). Areas with specific handicaps are usually municipalities and settlements insular or border areas, who suffer from positional specific problems.

In spite of the recognition of structural disadvantages of mountain, less-favored areas, has not been applied a different and comprehensive policy for these areas, only included in wider regional and rural policy for the LFAs of the European Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Population density of less than 30 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup> or annual reduction of at least 2%

<sup>2</sup> The average productivity should exceed 80% of the national average

The concept of less developed areas is now used instead of the term "underdeveloped areas" and for areas with low development indicators and indicators of well-being. At the same time, when referring to the "problem area" refers to regions with structural deficiencies that impede the development of competitiveness in the global economic system. However, the distinction between "problem" and disadvantaged areas is not easy (Spilanis others 2004). The Less Favoured Areas are areas with reduced land-use height scale, short growing season, steep terrain and relate soil characteristics that justify the low productivity areas. These areas, often indicated for farm (Apostolopoulos and Rogdakis, 1996).

Spatially homogeneous areas with sparse population density, with poor soil with low annual earnings up are less favored areas. In these areas (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001):

- 45 inhabitants per square kilometer reflect the population density
- In less than 80% of the Greek average is their agricultural income
- The main crops deliver them in up 80% of the Greek average

As we again mentioned above, Greece is a mountainous country, with the rate of 13% of the total population lives in mountainous areas. Therefore, Greek mountainous areas are representative sparsely populated, but also have higher density settlements per 100 square meters (Gialyri and Zampelis, 2001).

### **The policy for Less Favored Areas (LFA)**

In less favored areas, necessary financial support and support from the state. A policy on LFRs, almost from mid 1970s, a component of agricultural policy, structural policy of the European Union and integral part of a broader policy to rural development as today (Karanikolas, 2010) aiming to remove all the handicaps that the governing (Gialyri and Zampelis, 2001).

A policy on LFAs is based on the recognition of the multifaceted nature of the European countryside with an abundance of naturally disadvantaged areas, and the need to balance the negative effects on the functioning and development of farms. Through international literature has demonstrated significant correlation of LFAs (Brouwer and Lowe, 2000):



- the agricultural structures of small family farms, feared being marginalized
- with high nature value farming systems
- and with protected natural areas

In a climate of constant changes and developments around the culture and how to exercise intervention policies and agricultural policies in particular, spoken at times, within the European Union, severe criticisms as to the failure to target aid to areas most at risk of neglect and abandonment of agricultural land in the gap criteria used by the Member States to define the less-favored areas (ECA EU - 2003).

### **2.2.2 Regional disparities**

According to Gekas and Hatzimichalis (2001), the region provides a strong geographical unit, the boundaries of which are affected by constant changes in spatial characteristics. It is a dynamic unity in constant area, geographically defined. Regional disparities in Greece are a product concentration of various factors. Such factors are:

- Historians who are related to the evolutionary creation of the Greek state, leading to the establishment of the capital in a specific geographical location
- The geomorphologic, such as high mountain and island favored regions lagging
- Economic, such as the quality of human capital, and European economic integration between other
- and politicians as the centralized structure of government (Kostopoulos 2009 Petrakos 2009).

Primarily, regional disparities are caused or enhanced by structural changes in the overall economy, the main feature of which is the growing importance of financial and real estate activities and services at the expense of the "productive sector". Therefore, activities that tend to enhance their concentration trends in metropolitan centers. Such structural changes are reinforced by the internationalization of the production process in regional (at EU level) or global economic integration and free movement of capital which entails. The existence of different growth rates between

regions, has resulted in the creation of the regional problem. 'Regional problem' is defined as the existence of spatial asymmetry in the development process of a country or a wider geographical area (e.g. European Union) and the subsequent regional economic and social imbalance (Polyzos 2012).

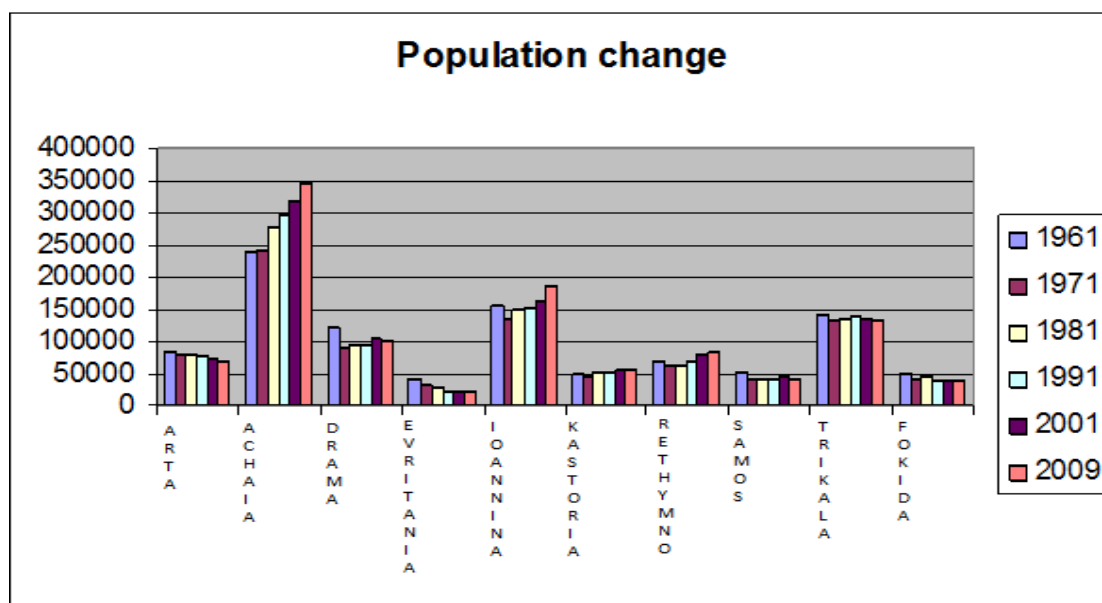
The evolution of regional inequalities in postwar Greece, turned it into the main feature of the Greek economy and simultaneously a national problem with serious implications for economic and social progress. So, today the "regional problem" has been appointed as officials causing imbalances in the country's productive capacity and developing regions (Polyzos 2012).

By studying the mountainous regions of Greece, are presented in the table below, the ten most mountainous districts of the country:

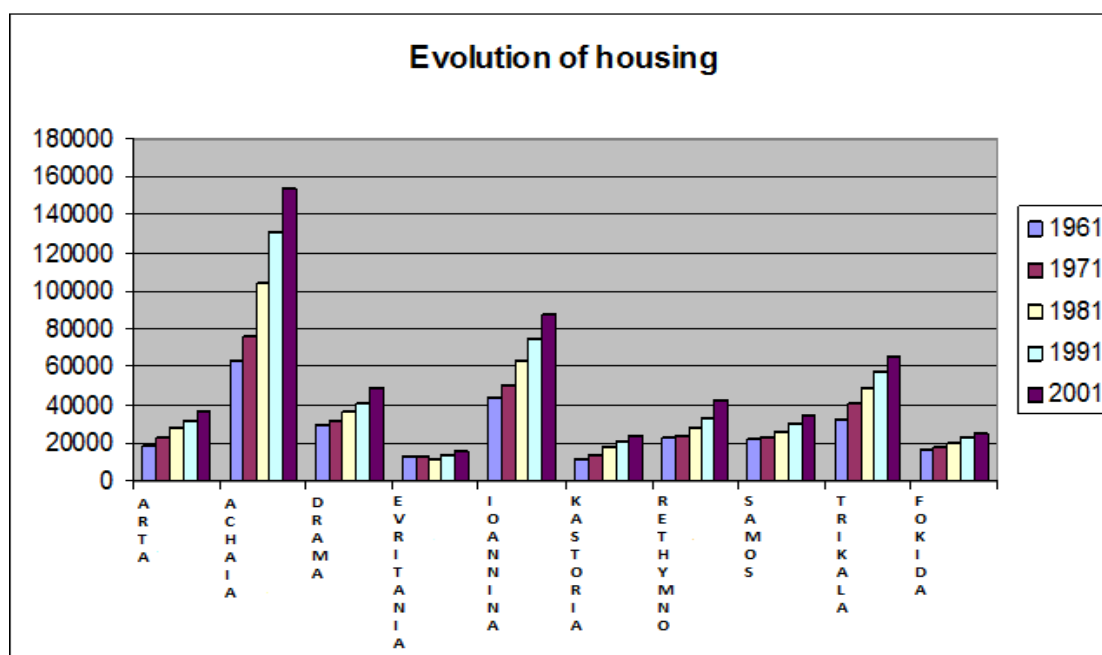
<b>The 10 most Mountainous Greek Counties</b>			
	<b>County</b>	<b>Surface in sq km</b>	<b>Mountainous rate</b>
<b>1</b>	Evritania	1869	100%
<b>2</b>	Ioannina	4990	85,01%
<b>3</b>	Fokida	2120	78,77%
<b>4</b>	Samos	778	78,41%
<b>5</b>	Trikala	3383	71,21%
<b>6</b>	Arta	1662	65,64%
<b>7</b>	Rethymno	1496	64,77%
<b>8</b>	Kastoria	1720	64,48%
<b>9</b>	Achaia	3272	63,48%
<b>10</b>	Drama	3468	63,15%

**Table 1: the 10 most Mountainous Greek Counties**

The spatial distribution of the population is a serious problem, which concerns the longitudinal shrinkage of the population in the region and especially in mountain areas. Regarding mountainous prefectures of Greece and according to the NSS, we find that only three counties-Achaia, Ioannina and Trikala- often, gather high population percentages with small fluctuations per decade, starting from 1961 and 2009. The county mountainous rate of Evritania with 100% since 1961 but attracts a small percentage of the population (39.716 inhabitants), however, the 2009 statistics betray attributes this decline, numbered 19,403 inhabitants.



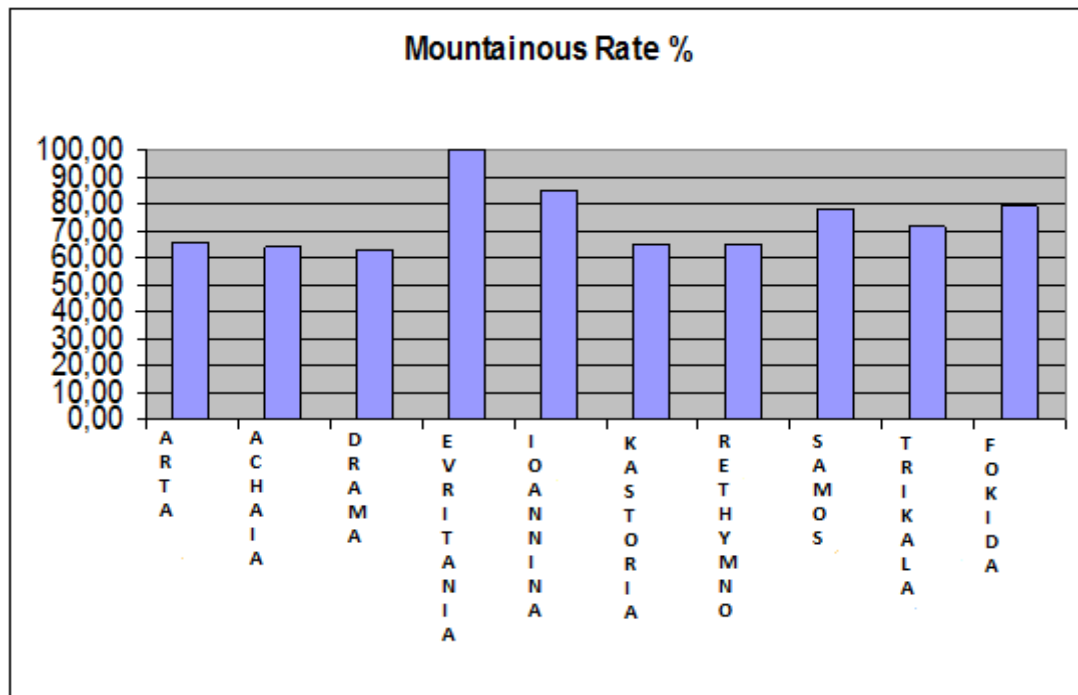
**Table 2: Population change**



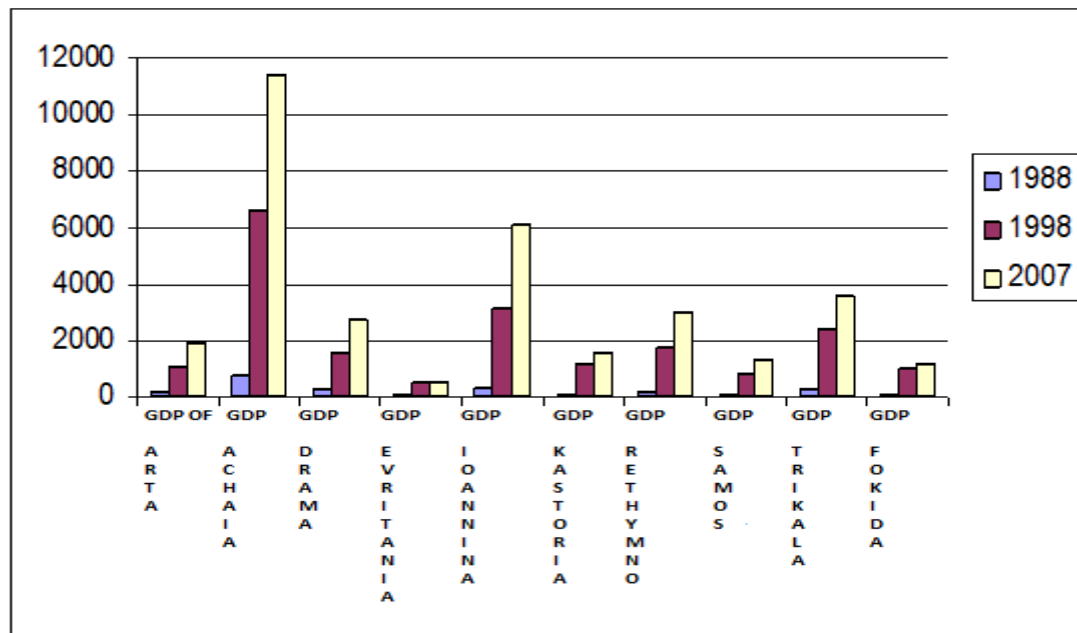
**Table 3: Evolution of housing**

After studying the evolution of housing, found that over time, the highlands attract residential interest. The reasons lie in the development of both ecotourism and agrotourism, but as the increasing preference of the Greek environment. The mountainous area has, over time, shelter people. Moreover, the mountains belong to the few areas of the world which offer a unique combination of natural beauty and rich biodiversity on the one side and on the other by the diversity of human cultures, traditions, history and lifestyle.

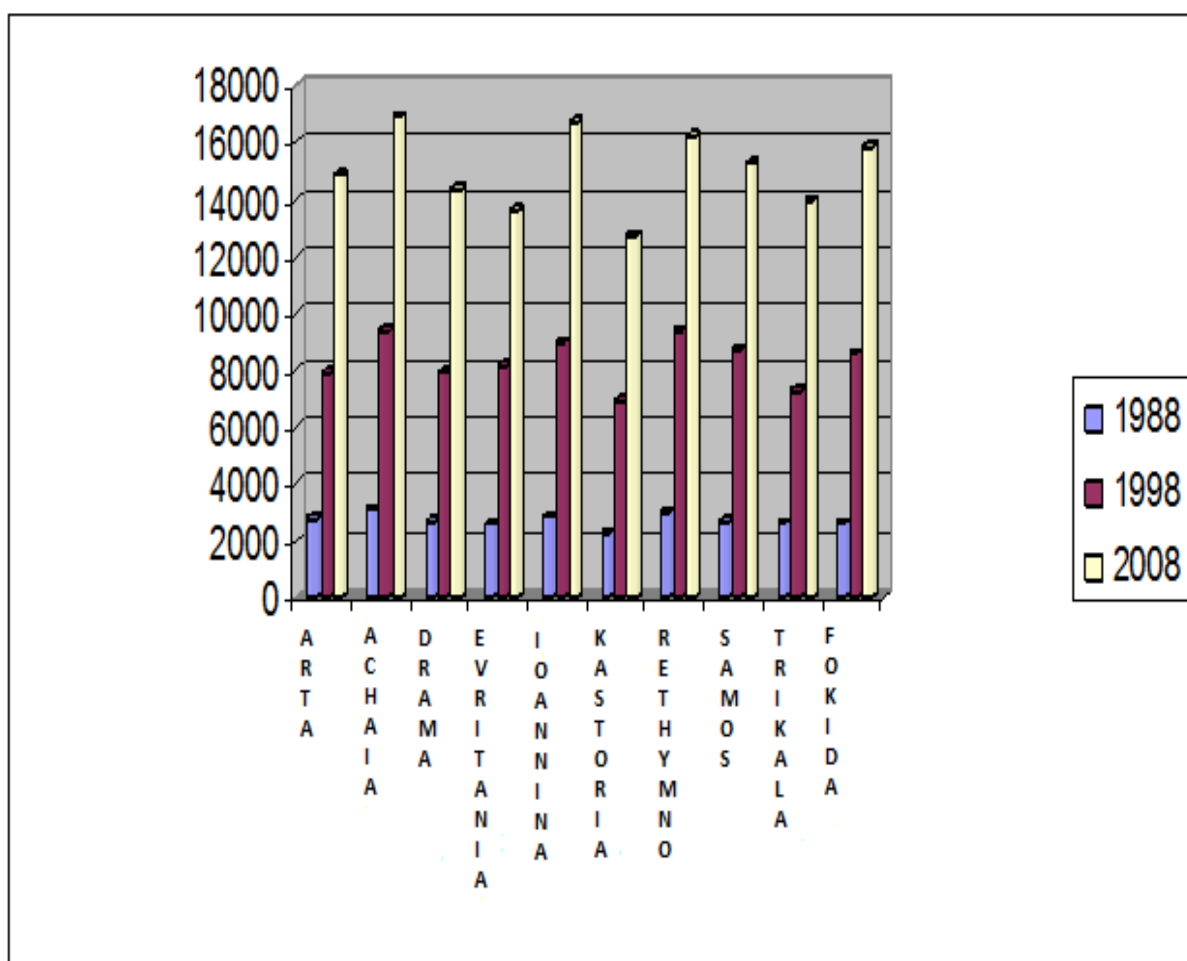
The Gross Domestic Product is the sum of the value of finished goods produced by society during a certain time. It includes all income, excluding, however, the profits of society outside of each spatial unit.



**Table 4: Mountainous Rate % for the ten most Mountainous Counties**



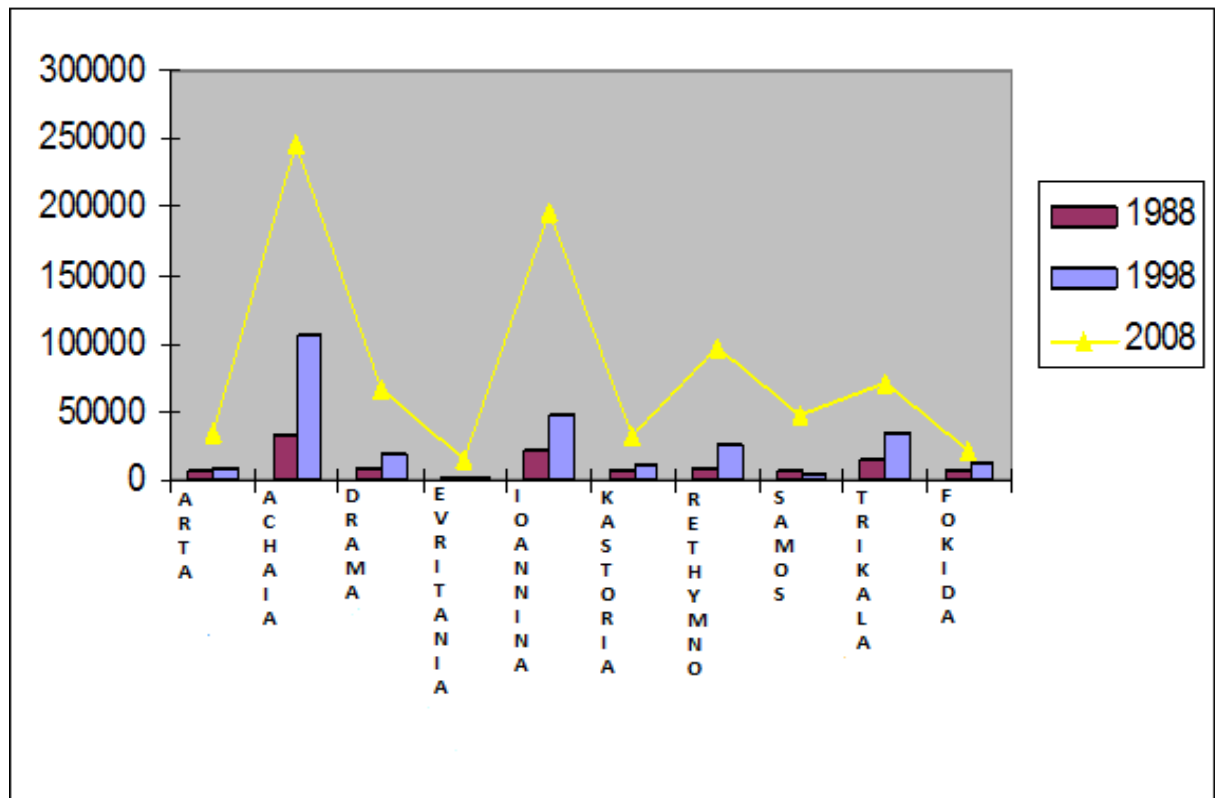
**Table 5: GDP growth in ten most Mountainous Counties**



**Table 6: Prosperity of the ten most Mountainous Counties**

GDP, the level of prosperity, the opportunities for economic progress and options for the lifestyle of residents show great disparities between the prefectures (Polyzos 2012). The GDP of the 10 Greek mountainous counties in 1988 was low compared with the growth that occurred in the next two decades. The economic structure of the regions, the degree and the ability to integrate and use superior technology to produce the quality and competitiveness of products, has determine the position of each region in spatial competition. As evident in the chart's GDP Achaia and Ioannina rose the most in two decades, 1988-1998, 1998-2008 mainly due to agriculture and the processing industry.

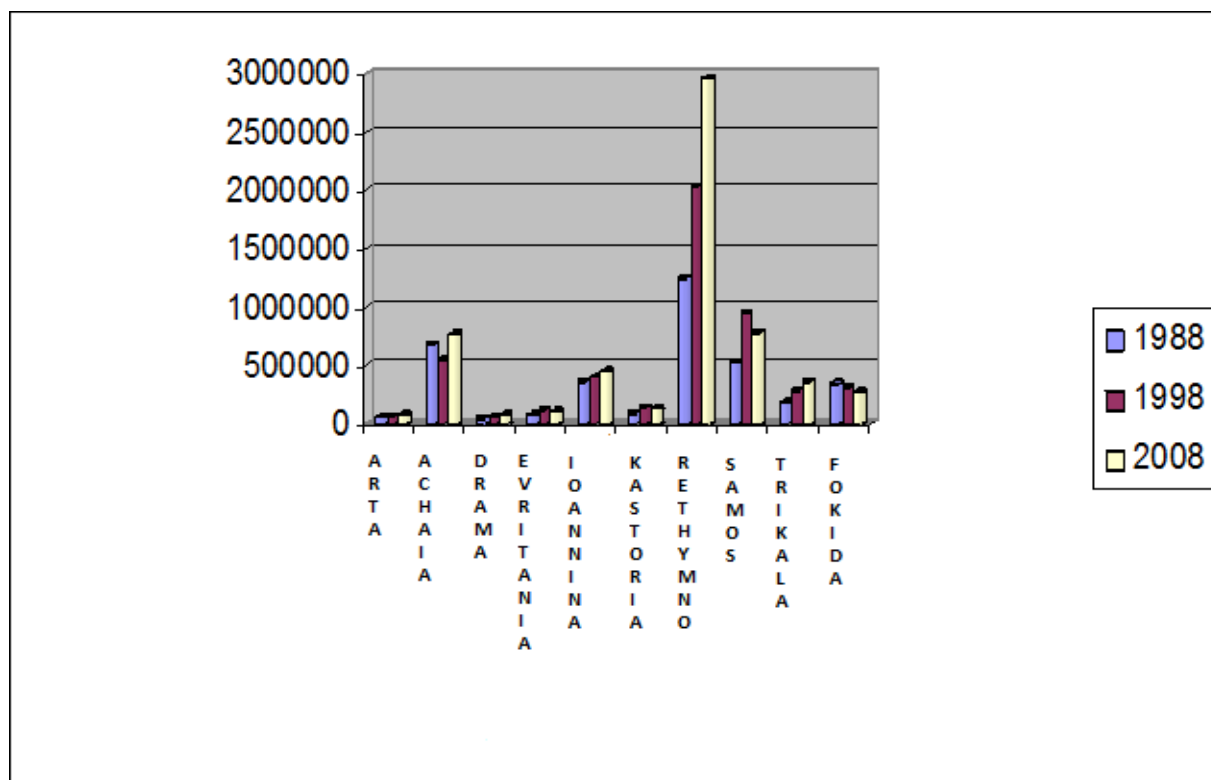
In a country with the characteristics of Greece, public investment is expected to be one of the major instruments of regional policy. The direction of investment is often not satisfactory, especially for mountainous LFAs.



**Table 7: Investment progress according to the ten most Mountainous Counties**

In 1988, investor interest is catatonic, but only counties Achaia, Ioannina and Trikala differ slightly, mainly due to public investment object manufacturing enterprises. The gradually increasing investment trend, observed after a decade in the prefecture of Trikala, according to data from the NSSG in 2008 Achaia Ioannina and Rethymno collected higher prices.

The tourism in mountain areas, is based on attracting visitors seeking traditional forms of accommodation and activities involving the physical element. It is important to emphasize that mountain tourism unrelated to the ski tourism, despite the many common characteristics. Besides, it is also evident in the diagram, where the county Haryana maintains low rates for two decades. Instead, the prefecture of Rethymno and Samos stand, enjoying a large share of tourism development mainly because of the insular nature.



**Table 8: Tourism development in the 10 most Mountainous Counties**

### 2.3 Conclusions

The Greek area governed by a particular set of remote areas and villages. Large number is located in mountainous areas. The mountainous areas of the Greek area neglected in the design, financing, but also in the development interest of governments for a long time. In conjunction with the already existing problems of these areas, mountainous areas led to devastation, abandonment and economic degradation. However it would be remiss not to mention that in most cases, the absence of man helped maintain the natural beauty of the landscape and environmental balance.

The designation of less favored areas or disadvantaged areas, as today has its foundations in combinations of all types of physical, economic and social characteristics and criteria. Has confirmed however, that the system boundary becomes increasingly incompatible with the revised policy objectives of aid to LFAs, which focus more on sustainable land management and less on social and economic goals (EU 2009).

## **CHAPTER 3: Progress of agricultural structures in mountain zones**

One of the major productive sectors of the economy worldwide is the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector determines the survival and quality of life to the maximum, while it is the ideal tool for the development of mountain areas. The role of the agricultural sector to foster social and economic cohesion of these areas and upgrading and addressing environmental problems, it is widely recognized (COM - 1999, 22 Final - Giaoutzi and Stratigea 2009, etc.).

In this way, the agricultural sector, in addition to employment opportunities and income it provides, essentially involved in the formation, maintenance and protection of rural areas. This sector provides the foundation for the development of different activities within the multifunctional use of agricultural land. Also, create the conditions for maintaining and bolstering the cultural characteristics, and the identity of rural areas (Stratigea and Papadopoulou 2011).

### **3.1 The European Union and the agriculture policies**

The development policy of the European Union, but also the deal with financial problems in recent years has changed. The existence of a centripetal regional policy gives way to policies, driven by local and regional features.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is reduced at the beginning of European integration, the period Member - Members trying to reorganize if they improve food production which was affected by the Second World War. CAP currently still plays a major role in the EU and more than 90% of the land consists of agricultural land and forests. Moreover, the CAP makes up the most important means to tackle the new challenges on diet quality, environmental protection and trade. The reform was made in 2003 features contributed to the evolution of the CAP, integrating the emerging needs of the farming community and consumers. So far this approach is the foundation for future development of the CAP in an enlarged European Union.

The CAP moves around two fundamental pillars:

- to support the competitiveness of European farmers and
- to encourage the development of rural areas, especially in LFAs



The level of funding for farmers has improved significantly and has given great importance to environmental protection and product quality. The EU has also received complementary measures to support rural development, driven a financial model that promotes agriculture and the rural industries generally.

Rural areas cover 92% of the territory of the European Union. The rural development policy focuses on three key areas:

- Economy agrifood
- Rural population
- Environment

Also, the upcoming strategies and future plans revolve around the following axes:

- "Competitiveness for agriculture, food and forestry." The human and natural resources is the goal of this axis
- "Managing the countryside and the environment." Expected to plan and measures to protect and enhance natural resources, agricultural systems, forests and traditional rural landscapes of Europe
- "Quality of life and diversification of the rural economy." This axis contributes to the development of rural areas by providing services to the population
- The Leader axis which provides new possibilities governance through strategic local action ([http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/agriculture/index\\_el.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/agriculture/index_el.htm)).

The EU policy on rural development for 2007 - 2013, follows the general guidelines of the Lisbon and Gothenburg for sustainable growth by targeting the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, land management, environment, quality of life and diversification of activities in rural areas. The ultimate goal, is to promote and sustain prosperity in rural areas.

### **3.1.1 Common Agriculture Policy**

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was one of the first areas of European Union policy. The objectives of the CAP set out in Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome:

- Improving agricultural productivity and efficiency
- Increase rural incomes
- Stabilising markets
- Commitment to production availability
- Ensure reasonable prices for consumers

The Common Agricultural Policy is the combined agricultural policy of the Member States of the European Union. It outlines a set of laws relating to agriculture, handling and quality of agricultural products and price stability, land use and end employment in the rural sector. Entered into force in 1962, under the European Economic Community (EEC), which was a forerunner of the European Union (EU), aiming:

- available food for Europe's consumers at low prices but also
- at fair compensation for producers and by implication
- Ensure decent living standards for farmers.

The Common Agricultural Policy in the course of forty years, was one of the major areas of European Union policy, influencing decisively the set of rules and mechanisms that regulate the production, trade and processing of agricultural products in the European Union. That was based on the principle of unity of agricultural products, Community preference and financial reciprocity.

The CAP in its evolution, underwent several reforms, partly radical, progressing to meet the constantly changing needs of society. Reducing the number of people employed in agriculture has led to a decline in the rate financing corresponding to the cap of the EU funds. Plus, following the latest enlargement of the EU, the main objective of this policy is the role of agriculture in the preservation and management of natural resources in the name of sustainable development, geographical and environmental measures among others.

Historically, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), serving as the main tool to support the agricultural sector in the European Union, led to modernization and the transition from a traditional to an intensive model of agricultural production, which is governed by a few, while more extensive farms, greater specialization and the use of

additives including (Walls 2006). The negative impact of this model is already visible in many areas, resulting in change of course in the last decade towards a new model for rural development. This new model, promotes:

- mitigate the environmental impact of the practice of farming
- ensure the quality and safety of products
- And provided aid rural incomes (Maravegias 2002).

While at the same time, the focus shifted to supporting the agricultural sector to develop sustainable agricultural systems that contribute to the integrated development of rural areas as a whole.

The European Union has, since December 2005 is undergoing a period of concern in relation to the political priorities. Agriculture and the rural sector, continue to be the focus of concerns and challenges. Agriculture, is being the most important and far more integrated common policy with multi-functional character, which receives a significant portion of the EU budget, attracting both attention and criticism in Europe and throughout the world (Batzeli, 2011).

These reasons led to constant reshuffles and CAP reforms, the most important reform 2003-2004. The Common Agricultural Policy started in 2003 and ended with the "Health Check" (2009) due to be reformed by the end of 2013. The CAP, which is the most comprehensive of EU policies, confronted today with a set of challenges that invite the European Commission to strategic options for the long term future of agriculture and rural areas (Fact to MRDF for the future CAP-Draft Communication from the Commission, 2010).

### **3.2 Agricultural development in Greek mountain areas**

The importance of the Common Agricultural Policy and rural development, strengthened after the recent enlargement of the European Union. This extension is the largest as well as the 15 Member States were 25 and 27 in 2007 with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania. More specifically, enlargement increased the EU population by 20%, the surface of 25% and the area under cultivation by 30% while

increasing the number of farmers at 4,000,000 (Official Journal of the European Union, Number 2006/144, L55, 25 / 2/2006).

The Greek mountainous areas and constitutes almost 50% of the national territory, collects less than 10% of the population. I.e. there is a significant disproportion between the extent and the permanent population of residents in mountainous areas, which creates problems and risks for demographic and social collapse in those areas.

The concept of mountainous and disadvantaged areas in the policy, introduced by Directive 75/268 EEC "About mountainous and hilly farming and farming in less favored areas" foresaw the implementation of a program to aid farmers and pastoralists in areas with limited or because of geography either due to economic and social situation (Fennell, 1997).

According to data from the MRDF (2009), the policy for the development of rural areas is governed by the following characteristics:

- Addressing problems in geographical terms as well as rural area governed by great diversity. Therefore the policy should be tailored to the specific characteristics of each region
- Participates in the development of all sectors of the economy and strengthening the effects on the local economy
- Leverages the inherent potential of each region
- Creates jobs
- Promotes equal opportunities to young people, women and special populations
- Promotes cooperation involved central and local agencies together
- Edits and adjust the policy to local needs, requirements and capabilities through multi-layered design processes "of upwards" - Bottom Up
- Protection of the natural and cultural environment, with the introduction of mild developmental activities at all levels
- Improve the quality of life of residents of rural areas

### 3.2.1 Fundamentals of agricultural holdings

According to official data from the Eurostat (2009), the largest number of farms is presented in dynamic and mountainous areas of Greece (with 39% and 35% of the total number of farms in the year 2007) with the LFA to follow garnering 26% (Table 9

Number of agricultural holdings								
	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
LFAs	203.650	195.720	189.610	194.880	202.450	210.550	214.270	223.640
Mountainous	305.310	292.620	286.500	289.260	279.130	284.950	285.020	298.250
Dynamic Areas	341.190	330.810	326.290	337.250	335.480	328.960	334.300	338.260
Total	850.140	819.150	802.410	821.390	817.060	824.460	833.590	860.150
Average size of holding (acres)								
	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
LFAs	55	53	54	53	57	60	60	61
Mountainous	47	45	46	44	47	54	53	51
Dynamic Areas	33	36	38	36	34	35	35	35
Total	43	43	45	43	44	48	48	47
Change in the number of holding								
	1990-1995		1995-2005		2005-2007		1990-2007	
LFAs	-6,9%		13,0%		4,4%		9,8%	
Mountainous	-6,2%		-0,5%		4,6%		-2,3%	
Dynamic Areas	-4,4%		2,5%		1,2%		-0,9%	
Total	-5,6%		3,9%		3,2%		1,2%	
Distribution of holdings								
	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
LFAs	24%	24%	24%	24%	25%	26%	26%	26%
Mountainous	36%	36%	36%	35%	34%	35%	34%	35%

<b>Dynamic Areas</b>	40%	40%	41%	41%	41%	40%	40%	39%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 9: (Own data processing of the NSSG)**

The period between 1990-2007, the total number of farms in the country, seems to grow by 1.2%, but sub-regions delete different path. In dynamic areas there is a slight decline in mountain reduction reaches 2.3% and favored significantly increasing by 9.8%.

Also, studying the period 1990-2007 by three sub-periods, it is evident the difference in the number of farms, where there are downward trends in all areas of the five years 1990-1995, while remarkable is the rise in disadvantaged areas during the decade 1995-2005 (Karanikolas, 2010).

The smallest average farm size is found in the dynamic areas of 35 acres and most favored by 61 acres. In mountainous areas the average farm has an area of 51 acres.

In mountainous areas identified most of the utilized agricultural area (UAA) of Greece. The UAA of LFAs after a slight increase over time, represents one third of the total UAA of the country, in contrast to the dynamic (Table 3). The data show a marked increase in the total UAA in the country, the interval 1990 - 2007 by 11.3%. Dramatic increase noted in disadvantaged areas with more than 20% (Karanikolas, 2010). The farms LFA excel in relation to holdings of other areas in the natural and as to their economic size.

<b>Used Agricultural Area</b>								
	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>LFAs</b>	1.114	1.033	1.022	1.043	1.150	1.257	1.289	1.360
<b>Mountainous</b>	1.426	1.308	1.330	1.258	1.306	1.550	1.517	1.532
<b>Dynamic Areas</b>	1.121	1.198	1.226	1.198	1.128	1.161	1.177	1.184
<b>Total</b>	3.661	3.539	3.578	3.499	3.583	3.968	3.984	4.076
<b>Distribution of Used Agricultural Area</b>								
	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>LFAs</b>	30%	29%	29%	30%	32%	32%	32%	33%

<b>Mountainous</b>	39%	37%	37%	36%	36%	39%	38%	38%
<b>Dynamic Areas</b>	31%	34%	34%	34%	31%	29%	30%	29%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Change in Used Agricultural Area</b>								
	<b>1990-1995</b>		<b>1995-2005</b>		<b>2005-2007</b>		<b>1990-2007</b>	
<b>LFAs</b>	-8,3%		26,1%		5,5%		22,1%	
<b>Mountainous</b>	-6,7%		14,1%		1,0%		7,4%	
<b>Dynamic Areas</b>	9,4%		-4,0%		0,6%		5,6%	
<b>Total</b>	-2,3%		11,3%		2,3%		11,3%	

**Table 10: (Own data processing of the NSSG)**

### **Improvement Plans for Agriculture**

Improvement plans are one of the 3 aid schemes to support investment in agricultural holdings and the promotion of employment:

- Aid to encourage investment in farm with obvious signs of economic viability
- Aid to encourage creation of model farms
- Aid to promote innovative actions

The aim of the measure within the CMD 637/2005 for investment in agricultural holdings is to improve the economic situation and living, working and production of highland people and country and especially farmers and their families. Improvement plans, provide support to agricultural holdings and investments aimed at modernizing, improving production through expansion and increase the value of the products. Improvement plans aimed at developing and restructuring of agricultural and livestock farms for converting them into modern production units in the primary sector and manufacturing ([http://www.geotechniki.com.gr/sxedia\\_beltiosis.el.aspx](http://www.geotechniki.com.gr/sxedia_beltiosis.el.aspx)).

Improvement plans subsidize:

- Construction, expansion, modernization and relocation of farm buildings and structures - barns, stables and greenhouses construction
- Purchase of agricultural tractors and related machinery

- Farms
- Sheep and Goats
- Dairy cows

Among other things, improvement plans and subsidizes some costs:

- Plant and production equipment, usually at wineries and dairies
- Purchase, transport and installation of new machinery and equipment and computers
- Purchase, transport and installation equipment irrigation systems to save water
- Purchase, transport and installation of equipment for the utilization of renewable energy sources (RES), in order to meet the needs of operators in electricity and biomass
- Land improvements such as drilling etc.
- Establishment of facilities for special farms
- Purchase, transport and installation of perennial plantations
- General costs associated with these costs (design, licensing, building permits, notary fees, etc.)

Improvement plans included all professional farmers who meet the following conditions:

- must be aged 18 to 65 years
- are mainly farmers, i.e. derive 35% of their income from agricultural activities
- to be insured in AIO or impersonate occupations, resident municipal departments as 2,000 residents, mountain areas or small islands
- Also in the program can be intensified by agricultural entities, where they satisfy the conditions

### **3.2.2 European Community Initiatives**

The EEC in the mid-1980s, attempts to implement the Integrated Mediterranean Programs (IMPs) to complete development planning for Greece. The IMPs were



integrated strategic development plans, which are aimed at improving the economic and social composition in the less developed areas of Greece (<http://www.mou.gr>). Among other things the IMPs implemented in Italy, France, Spain and Greece. As for our country, six of the seven programs implemented into six apartments, which was divided country:

- North Greece
- Western Greece
- Central Greece
- Aegean Islands
- Crete
- Attica

The Seventh was thematic and related to Information Technology. The initial period of application had been set five years 1984 - 1989, but was extended until 1993. The main objective of the IMPs was the financing of local comprehensive plans to link the agricultural sector to other productive sectors and to support actions that economic, social and cultural. However, Greece has failed to digest the approach of IMPs unlike France and Italy (Apostolopoulos, 2004).

The Reform of the Structural Funds in 1988, is starting to implement the approach of integrated development. The areas of the EEC are distinguished economic and social since 1988 he also started the implementation of the Community Support Framework (CSF) drawn up by the European Commission after negotiations with the Member States in the light of the development plans submitted by the competent national and regional authorities (Delitheou, 2005). The CSFs consist of two axes, the national and regional level. On the first pillar are moving the Sectoral Operational Programs and in the second the Regional Operational Programs (Petrakos - Psycharis, 2004).

That same year, the term Community Initiative introduced innovations in operational programs. The Community initiatives planned by the European Commission and implemented by the Member States. An expression of EU policies and undertake to supplement the activities of the Structural Funds in certain sectors (Delitheou, 2005). The most part financed by the European Union and the rest of the

beneficiary Member State (Delitheou, 2005). The Community Initiatives, as their target, distinguished:

- Regional character
- Agricultural and character
- Social character

The first category focuses on the problems of the region and the difficulties arising from Community policies. The second category focuses on agricultural structures and rural development. Finally, the third category aims at social organization of the region and the improvement of the people who compose it. The content of Community Initiatives is intertwined with the interest of the Member States and directly affects fields' development. Examples:

- The foundation for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation
- Rural development
- Troubleshooting of remote areas
- The employment of manpower

The period 1989 - 1993 as applied Community initiatives totaled 16 in number, including the INTERREG, LEADER, HORIZON etc. During the period 1994 - 1999 after changes their number decreased and reached on 13 (Petrakos - Psycharis, 2004). The four Community initiatives of the European Structural Funds for the period 2000 - 2006 were:

- EQUAL: transnational cooperation to promote new means of combating discrimination and inequalities in access to the labor market
- LEADER +: rural development through integrated development programs and cooperation of local action groups
- URBAN II: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighborhoods in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development.
- INTERREG III: cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation aimed at boosting growth and equitable settlement of the European territory

In 1991 was first implemented in Greece the Community Initiative LEADER. The LEADER was the starting point for a new approach to rural development policy. Through LEADER strengthened integrated and multidisciplinary development, while given the opportunity for local communities to plan and decide independently the evolution and development. The encouraging results of the first application and the realization that, despite the difficulties, the Community Initiative activated the local population led to a more integrated and effective planning of LEADER II implementing the Initiative continued and III Programming Period through the LEADER + initiated in the same sense.

In Greece there were three Community initiatives LEADER, the LEADER I, LEADER II and LEADER +. They were implemented in regions with very large structural problems and particularly in mountainous and disadvantaged areas. By Article 33 of Regulation EC 1257/1999 for rural development, integrated approach to CIP policy for rural development and to EC Regulation 1698/2005 the LEADER approach was designated as one of the four pillars of the rural development programs development of the 4th Programming period.

According to the MRDF in the context of the RDP 2007 - 2013, taking into account the need for a balanced development of rural areas, but especially the need to address the problems of regions directly affected by the implementation of the CAP approach concerns mountainous and disadvantaged Greek areas with special attention to the cases of damaged areas from the fires of the summer season 2007.

### **LEADER I**

The LEADER I was a model Community Initiative concerning the integrated local rural development by giving the possibility of granting aid in the form of subsidies. The said CI has worked as a self-help program and mobilizing of local resources for remote area or rural community with a population of 5,000 to 100,000 people. In Greece the LEADER I applied to an area of about 41.000km<sup>2</sup>, at a rate that is 30% of the total area garnering approximately 1,378,000 inhabitants, representing 14% of the total population. The program enrolled 1733 projects created 1877 new jobs.

The objectives of the CI LEADER I was:

- Rural development and exploitation of the potential of each region

- The distribution of information and knowledge for local development
- The promotion of measures relating to the involvement of rural development
- The training and utilization of agricultural products after
- The networking groups through the exchange of information and knowledge

The CI LEADER I applied in regions with specific size and number of features, while the development of each region based on the active participation of the population and local actors. Moreover, the aim was to identify and plan actions to fit the character of its inhabitants. Moreover thanks to CI created Local Action Groups (LAG) consisting of local institutions, associations and companies have drafted integrated approach to rural development.

In LEADER I distinguish three categories of measures. The first category relate directly with residents and the economic factors of each region and included technical support, training and employment aid, rural tourism, strengthening small businesses, exploitation and commercialization of agricultural products and other measures. The second concerned the creation, equipment and management teams' rural development. Finally, the third category refers to the organization and operation network between the groups at the international level (Official Journal of the European Communities).

With a CI LEADER I, provided the opportunity for local agencies to develop horizontal cooperation while creating an inclusive business plan and then manage the implementation, in order to propose solutions for the development of their region. It has introduced to the local population new technologies to modernize production processes, welfare and communication. Furthermore, has promoted the opening of rural areas to other areas, exchanging and transferring experience through the creation of networks, employing also endogenous resources for their development.

## **LEADER II**

The CI LEADER II was a continuation of the CI LEADER I emphasizing the spatial approach of the programs, the innovative nature of the projects, the exchange of experiences, the multisectoral character and financial self-reliance. Had duration of application 6 years (1994-2000) and community participation in initiatives and

activities of natural and legal persons and local authorities, amounted to up to 50% of the total project budget.

The objectives of the CI LEADER II were:

- Stimulating economic activity in mountainous and disadvantaged areas, creating additional employment in parallel with farming activities
- Addressing the problem of the balanced relationship between agricultural land and labor through the development of activities aimed at creating new employment opportunities in rural areas
- Encouraging and undertaking innovative development actions for rural areas by local bodies
- The organization of local actors to draw on the experience at national and international level

The bodies responsible for the application and implementation of LEADER II were two categories:

- The Local Action for Rural Development, which, like a CI LEADER II, composed of partnerships between public and private partners aimed at establishing a strategy for developing a defined rural area
- Collective public bodies or the rural countryside e.g. Agricultural cooperatives, provided that the activities are related to the development of a local geographical unit

Intermediate body for the management and monitoring of LEADER II at country level was the Ministry of Agriculture. Also the selection areas were identical with the LEADER II. Under the CI implemented a total of 3,270 projects and actions. Of these, 1150 were projects of alternative tourism and agrotourism, 508 were investments small business, 765 projects were exploitation and marketing of agricultural products, 600 were investments promotion and protection of the environment, 16 were transnational cooperation projects, 2 projects of learning, 70 actions were support implementation agencies and 160 were training (Ministry of agriculture, 2001).

For each region, the LEADER II took into account the following components:

- Image and perception of the area
- Natural resources
- Human resources
- Cultural identity of the area
- Specialized technical knowledge
- Financial resources
- Activities and Employment
- Purchases and external relationships (News of LEADER, 2000).

The CI LEADER II consisted of four parts:

1. "Acquisition of Skills" - It was the first step of the initiative was to do with the financing of technical assistance in pre-investment and aimed:
  - The diagnosis of the needs of the area
  - In creating incentives for activation and participation of local people in the development program
  - Providing technical support for the establishment of partnerships at local level
  - The creation of integrated development strategies
  - The address funding sources
2. "Innovative programs for rural development" - Any proposed action is required if CI has three main characteristics: innovation compared with the data of the region, display and transmission capability of expertise. The innovative ideas aimed at creating programs capable of bringing real added value compared with other interventions in the region. The actions of these programs included the following measures:
  - Measure 1: Provide technical support
  - Measure 2: Vocational training and employment aid
  - Measure 3: Agrotourism
  - Measure 4: Small business, crafts, services at small radius
  - Measure 5: On-site utilization and marketing of agricultural, forestry and fisheries production

- Measure 6: Maintain and improve the environment and surroundings
- 3. "Transnational cooperation" - This is the collaboration between local organizations located in different states and implement similar programs. Thereby reinforcing the exchange of views and experiences and the design, creation and joint marketing of products and services
- 4. "Join the network" - Investigating existing LEADER network for the benefit of all those involved in rural development (Official Journal of the European Communities).

### **LEADER +**

The implementation of the CI LEADER follows the CPS LEADER I and LEADER II in the third period (2000 to 2006). Implemented by the LAG and funded by the European Commission (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) and the Public Investment Program MRDF. The CIs that complements the established programs by promoting integrated operations planned and implemented in partnership at local level. After applying the first two CIs problems of facing mountain and rural areas, continue to exist. For this reason it was decided to continue the CIs LEADER.

This new CI has the following objectives:

- To meet the new challenges of the rural world
- The comprehensive and high-quality, sustainable rural development
- Utilization of natural and cultural heritage
- Enhance efforts to lift the quarantine areas at all levels of social and economic life
- The encouragement of local authorities to consider the growth potential of the region as part of a longer-term perspective

The CI LEADER + consists of 4 priority axes. Each axis has a number of actions, which fall in meters:

1. Priority Axis 1: Integrated pilot nature and rural development strategy - it is the backbone of LEADER +. Presents the biggest financial weight and required to be

listed in all local development plans submitted. This axis consists of 4 measures and individual actions.

- Measure 1.1. Technical Support Project Promoters
  - Measure 1.2. Investment aid - Support to entrepreneurship
  - Measure 1.3. Supporters actions
  - Measure 1.4. Protection, Promotion and Exploitation of Natural and Cultural Heritage
2. Priority 2: Support for cooperation between rural areas - Purpose of the axis is to reach the rural areas to escape isolation. This objective will be achieved through cooperation and exchange of views and experience of all stakeholders at local, national and transnational levels.
- Measure 2.1. Cooperation between regions of the country: Inter-territorial and Interregional Cooperation
  - Measure 2.2. transnational Cooperation
3. Priority Axis 3: Networking - Relates to support the functioning of the Greek Network LEADER + and support the action plan of the Unit Animation Network LEADER
- Measure 3.1. Network function LEADER
  - Measure 3.2. Unit Animation Network LEADER +
4. Priority Axis 4: Management, monitoring and evaluation of programs - related to the creation committees will aim to coordinate, control and acceleration of procedures for implementing LEADER +

The nature of the program ensured through networking similar or complementary businesses, joint marketing and promotion, cooperation and collective business support, to ensure the sustainability and interlinkage of actions (KD Apostolopoulos, 2009:94 ) (S. Varvaresos 2000:51).

### **3.2.3 Development Programs and Funding in mountainous areas**

According to the facts, mountain regions have always identified by the dominance of social and economic relations of agriculture. Although in several mountainous areas the role of agriculture has reduced enough, the agriculture sector continues to influence the development of mountain areas. Baldock et al. (1996) warn against the



dangers created by the marginalization and abandonment of farming systems that prevail in mountainous areas. The risk weakening population of mountain areas and the objective of fulfilling comparable income farmers' residents highlighted the implementation of specific policy measures to offset these weaknesses. Primary means of income support to farmers in mountain areas under Directive 75/268/EEC used the annual compensatory allowance for permanent natural handicaps of these regions.

Regarding funding targets rural areas for the period 2007-2013, carried out through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which came into operation on 1 January 2007 (Official Journal of the European Communities, 1698/2005, L227, 21/10/2005). The policy objectives for Rural Development 2007-2013 implemented through four priorities (Official Journal of the European Communities, 1698/2005, L227, 21/10/2005):

1. Axis 1: Improving competitiveness in agriculture and forestry - is to provide support for any measure aimed at improving human capital, natural capital and quality of agricultural production
2. Axis 2: Improving the environment and countryside - The measures contained in Regulation 1698/2005 for the environment and the countryside, aimed at sustainable use of agricultural land through aid for farmers in mountainous and disadvantaged areas mainly
3. Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
4. Axis LEADER - As mentioned in the previous section, the initiative LEADER possibilities for establishment of local partnerships and innovative actions linking agriculture and the local economy, helping to reinforce the social and economic fabric

According to EC Directive 75/268 EEC "About mountainous and hilly farming and farming in less favored areas", the inhabitants of mountainous and disadvantaged areas benefit from any measures:

- Equalizing damages as compensation for the permanent natural handicaps
- Granting payments to agricultural holdings of potential development

- Granting investment collective investment whose main objective is the improvement of pastures

The Directive 75/268 EEC replaced by Regulation 950/97 and then from 1257 to 1299, who turn to January 1, 2007 was replaced by Regulation 1698/2005 except for Articles for mountainous and disadvantaged areas.

According to the Regulations 1257/99 and 1783/2003, mountainous and disadvantaged areas benefit directly from the following measures:

- Compensatory allowance per capita or per acre
- Investment projects with subsidy rate of 50% and 60% for investments of young farmers

The compensatory allowance is the most basic form of income support for farmers in mountainous and disadvantaged areas. The farms of the mountainous and disadvantaged areas bring low-income producers because of permanent physical adversity, such as the short growing season and degraded soils. This fact, combined with the absence of alternative employment, creating serious problems for the stay of residents in these areas and for the continued operation of agricultural activities. The measure of compensatory damages aims to alleviate the current situation, offsetting a portion of the income loss for the annual compensation. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 1257/99, the compensatory allowance granted to agricultural holdings:

- Cultivate minimum area of land of 30 acres or 20 acres for Greece
- Undertake to extend their agricultural activity for five years from the first payment of a compensatory allowance
- Stands for good agricultural practices, which comply with environmental rules - sustainable farming

According to the circular MRDF 2006 "program of economic aid to the mountainous and disadvantaged areas first year payment period 2007-2013 ", in Greece the necessary conditions that must be met by the beneficiary are:

- To be a farmer, taking at least 25% of personal income from farms

- To be legal owner of at least 20 hectares of utilized agricultural area in mountainous or disadvantaged region
- To be a legal resident of the regions of Directive 85/148/EOK (mountainous and disadvantaged areas with specific problems), as amended and in force except for mobile pastoralists
- Do not retiring as directly insured by the fund or abroad and do not have a permanent non-agricultural employment

The obligations of the farmers who have been included the extent of compensatory damages, last at least five years. The integrated since farmers must carry out agricultural activity under the terms of the measure to use it throughout the period for which the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice (CGAP)<sup>3</sup> and cooperate in the implementation of measures for the improvement of livestock.

### 3.3 Conclusions

The agricultural sector is an important factor of economic and social cohesion in Greece, both at national and regional level. However, the last 15 years, significant developments have brought about changes in the cost of production, and especially the sustainability of certain industries.

The constant changes in the exercise of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU enlargement towards Central and Eastern Europe, restructuring in the production and marketing of food to the presence of powerful multinational corporations, frequent international dietary crises, the ongoing trade negotiations and the growing interest in environmental protection are indicative contributor to new conditions, both domestically and in the global market for agricultural products. These developments are expected to influence the expectations of producers, many of whom consider the future uncertain and problematic.

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<sup>3</sup> The CGAP is a tool of sustainable management of natural resources

## **CHAPTER 4: Sustainable development and mountain areas**

The term sustainability established in the 18th century and was mainly concerned with forest management and renewal and supply of forest products over time. The international literature inventor of the concept is the forester Ch. Von Karlovic, who in 1713 first used the expression "sustainable" in the following sentence: "The art, science and status of this country based on the sustainability and growth of woody capital such a way as to achieve a stable, permanent and sustainable exploitation, because this is a necessary condition without which the country can be». Today, the concept of sustainability is identical to sustainable development. Sustainable development or sustainable development refers to economic growth that is planned and implemented with a view to protecting the environment and sustainability. The main axis of sustainability is the maximum possible gain goods from the environment.

The significance of the term "sustainable development" is of paramount importance since 1987, when it was proposed by the Brundtland Commission Report (World Commission on Environment and Development - WECD - World Commission on Environment and Development). The term rose to the top of the agenda of the United Nations, forcing the majority of national and international organizations in the adoption of sustainable development. From 1987 onwards, the concept of sustainability has evolved and today has been universally established, based on three pillars:

1. Economic development
2. Environmental protection
3. Social equality

The greatest emphasis is given on economic growth as well as a condition for the welfare of society. Ensuring the balance between the three pillars is necessary to achieve sustainable development (Nastis and Papanagiotou, 2010).

#### 4.1 Policies for the sustainable growth of mountain areas

It is imperative to create an integrated and comprehensive policy for mountain regions of Greece. This policy should be constant over time and consistent, coherent and scientifically innovative. The integrated policy for the development of mountain areas should be based on three pillars (Beriatos, 1999):

- Ensuring the "bottom" (bottom up) participatory process and development partnership (partnership) between public, private and social enterprises
- The creation and operation of networks and the management of the mountains in National, Balkan European level
- The principle of subsidiary implies the assembly powers in order to overcome the reflection between the centralized and decentralized administration

Additionally, you must develop a typology developed regions combined with applicable policies in mountainous areas, which are also more than 50% of the area of the country. The distinction could be of this form (Beriatos H. - Psaltopoulos M., 2003):

- Mountain areas categorized as to the degree of naturalness. So depending on the intensity of use / exploitation
- Mountain areas categorized as to their environmental situation
- Mountain areas categorized as to the accessibility and the type of movement to and from these

The development policy implemented in mountainous regions worldwide, including two forms of management of reconstruction of mountainous areas:

- Non-binding development policy: The initiative comes from the international institutions that define the objectives and guidelines for actions at national and international level, e.g. Agenda 21
- Binding Development Policy: includes treaties and conventions that bind the countries that are signatories to take measures to address development issues in a spirit of cooperation and understanding (Papadimatos and Rokos, 2001).

According to data from the Ministry of Environment (2002), joint prospects for cases of mountainous areas as compensation for loss of income due to the peculiarities of these regions, emphasizing the following:

- Provide opportunities for developing new productive activities, particularly in agriculture. Special importance should be given to development of primary sector oriented competitiveness through quality. Thus, it is possible to achieve the sustainability of mountain settlement.
- Empowering local development through sustainable forms of tourism and leisure activities. The highlands have the potential to provide leisure and tourism not only in summer but also in winter, making the place attracting tourism investment and pursue similar economic activities.
- Empowering recovery upgrade and development of human resources, especially in terms of the traditional professions in order to not only maintain the existing workforce, but to attract new.
- Provide opportunities to preserve the landscape of woodlands, environmental particularities and cultural resources in mountain areas through the implementation of standard integrated development programs. This perspective refers to those mountainous areas around mild tourism development opportunities, such as skiing and climbing.
- Provide opportunities for infrastructure development, the residential network and roads

We need to underline that Greece does not have a nationally-designed for Greek-data and integrated policy for mountain areas. Until now, various development approaches in mountainous areas do not face the problems of in their entirety, making just interventions. Often, the dynamics of space and the peculiarities of the mountain area is taken into account, which would lead to instability. A comprehensive policy, it is necessary for the country, provided they expressed through the right institutional framework and the corresponding administrative structures. Also must be a program of action that forms the foundation of any policy. To achieve all this, we need organization and coordination of the national database and effective management within the region, with the guidance and coordination of the base. Finally, we should all stakeholders to develop new relationships with local communities in mountain areas which constitute the essence of the mountain world.

According to Rokos (2001) the steps necessary for successful, integrated development of mountain areas consist of:

- The exact wording of the values and principles of development policy and the clear definition of objectives and actions. In this case an important role played by local authorities, residents and businesses.
- In creating conditions for establishment and effective functioning of bodies of Integrated Development of mountainous areas. In this case, volunteering and intent on establishing relationships cooperation is likely to bring positive results.
- The practical acceptance by the State of multidimensional attributes bearing the unbroken unity of physical, social and economic realities of mountain regions.
- The precise, systematic and comprehensive inventory and recording through the years of physical and human assets of each mountain region, capabilities and constraints. Understanding fully the mountainous region is possible if you apply the proper development policy with high chances of success.

The mountainous regions of our country and settlements contained within these typically occupy large tracts of land and are presented in a different situation and a different dynamic in terms of physical and climatic characteristics, existing natural and human resources, and in terms of growth and conditions for development. It is necessary, before the formulation and implementation of any policy for these areas to create appropriate information system, which will supply makers and stakeholders to support and implement such a policy, with means to this end information (Stamou, 1999 and 2007).

For the emergence of mountain areas required to implement a comprehensive program of sustainable development. Development policy for mountain areas based on integrated development of rural areas. Regarding the mountainous areas close to cities, it is believed by side policy that encouraged the strengthening of interdependence between them while the mountainous areas are far from cities, it is suggested that non-agricultural activities such as rural tourism. According to Papadimatou and Rokos (2001), the European Development Policy for mountainous regions is mainly determined by the draft the European Charter of Mountain Regions (1995), the European Charter for Rural Areas (1996) and by the Intergovernmental Conference on the Sustainable Development of highland held in Italy in 1996.

Based on the implementation of the European Charter of Mountain Regions of 1995 seeks to apply a design that combines all the parameters to enhance the economic development of the region always taking into account the specific cultural factors. According to Papadimatou and Rokos (2001) the objectives of this effort are summarized as follows:

- Clear recognition of mountain areas and their specificity
- Respect and recognition in the geographical unit which any mountainous area
- Retention of local people and tackling new migration trend
- Modernization and infrastructure
- Maintain and improve local services
- Maintain current industrial activities and establishing new industries which rely on new technologies
- Developing tertiary sector, particularly through tourism as a complement to traditional professions trainees
- Maintain identity and spreading cultural values governing the highlands

The mobilization of local stakeholders is also needed in the effort to participate in the development and configuration perspective. Besides, the draft European Charter of Rural Areas 1996, seek to cooperate and closer ties among residents of urban areas and people in mountainous areas. Simultaneously, seeks complete utilization of technology, targeting the approach of the urban living standards. The ideas and possibilities for local populations is appropriate and beneficial to release creatively to make effective the development effort.

The development options for the mountainous countryside identified in the broader context of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (Article 6 of Law 2742/1999) and Plan of Development of Mountainous Area which is a special part of the Regional Development Plan 2000-2006 and the proposed "integrated Development of Mountainous Areas "as:

- Separate subroutine for each Region and
- Sectoral activities of the National Operational Programmes.



According to the Plan of Development of Mountainous Area mountainous regions of Greece are classified into three types, depending on their growth momentum. The classification of mountainous areas of Greece in three types of areas is based on the population changes, dependence on the primary sector, the income of the residents and the general living conditions (Papadimatou and Rokos, 2001):

1. Relatively developed areas - concerns regions with enough permanent population and sustainable economic base, which is based on farming, forestry, tourism and vacations, traditional crafts and related social services. These regions do not face major problems in mountain LFAs.
2. Dynamic areas with untapped resources - related to an area with a significant but declining population, degraded economic base, abandonment of agricultural land and reducing livestock despite considerable agricultural, cultural and environmental resources.
3. Areas inland - Relates areas with almost complete abandonment population without the presence of agricultural and environmental resources, with problems, but additional environmental degradation by soil erosion, forest fires and non-maintenance of residential projects and monuments.

#### **4.2 Prospects of the agriculture sector**

The general characteristics of Greek agriculture shaped by a number of physical and structural factors:

- The dry climate which is usually exacerbated by long periods of drought
- The small size and fragmentation of farms
- The large proportion mountainous and disadvantaged areas

The rural landscape is governed by macroscopic appearance, typical farming practices and systems and cultures are unique, it is difficult to isolate and protect individual (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002). The agricultural sector is important both from an economic standpoint, after participating heavily on GDP and exports, but also in social terms because of the large number of people engaged in agriculture.

## **Agrotourism**

The farmers in the mountain areas, while aiming to improve their standard of living, seeking ways for higher returns on their production rates and also ways to upgrade their quality of life. The continuing these efforts were the driving force behind the shift of farmers to rural tourism (Huffman 1980, Mishra and Goodwin 1997).

Agrotourism made his appearance as an alternative form of tourism and recreational activity developing in rural areas in the countries of the European Union since the 1950 (Opperman, 1996). In contrast, in most Mediterranean countries, among them Greece, developed in the last decades because of slow social and economic adjustment countryside and its equally slow pace of institutional change (Tsartas and Thanopoulou, 1994). Agrotourism developed because of the need of residents of large urban centers, to be close to nature, in a quiet natural environment and the need of people in the countryside for supplemental income other than agriculture. Taking into account the European Union all these factors looks through various measures, maintenance of traditional farming practices with low capital intensity, while helping to prevent desertification of the landscape.

The definition of agrotourism is particularly associated with features of Greek rural areas, as defined in the Minutes of the Interdepartmental Commission under the auspices of the NTO (14/02/1984): "Agrotourism is the tourism activity that develops in non-urban areas by persons engaged in agriculture (in family or cooperative form small units), aiming to strengthen rural livelihoods and the local economy, containment and repatriation of indigenous population, so by utilizing natural and cultural resources and by rental accommodation and the provision of local products to tourists. "

Agrotourism includes all the elements and characteristics of rural life, for this reason, the protection of the specific features of the rural landscape, is of great importance for rural tourism. It offers its guests accommodation, food and activities directly associated with the farm. For the realization of the requirements of agrotourism, accommodation created host, respecting the environment and the countryside.

The impetus to rural tourism, given the urbanization of the developed world, who eagerly sought contact with nature (Sharpley, 2002) and by adopting national and international policies, such as meeting in Rio (UNCED, 1992) to exploit the

agrotourism as a driver of rural development (WTTC et al 1996, Hunter 1997, Butler 1999, Sharpley 2000, Cohen 2002, Hardy et al 2002, Liu 2003).

However, according to Gartner (2004) the most important factors that contributed to the development of rural tourism are:

- Increasing interest in the uniqueness of the traditional lifestyle
- The need to develop alternative proposals with a short holiday in rural areas
- Lack of authenticity and warmth of human relations, and the search for natural products and fair
- The search for peace
- Awareness of the need for a natural lifestyle while increased interest in health and hygiene
- The strong buying interest in recent years for equipment outdoor activities
- Creating incentives, especially financial, to prevent the exodus of natives from the countryside

In the light these criteria, adopted various forms of agrotourism as a controversial and widely applicable strategies sustainable development (Anthopoulou, 2000). According to Theodoropoulou (2006) until today agrotourism has excelled in two forms:

1. Guests are accommodated in large farms participating in farm work and in daily life of farmers. This form of agrotourism, is known as: Holidays at the farm - Farmhouse Holidays
2. Guests are accommodated in small accommodations where they offer breakfast, consisting of locally produced products. This form of agrotourism, is known as: Bed & Breakfast - Bed and Breakfast

Besides, ensure high revenues for farmers and many new jobs (Papageorgiou, 1998) via a guest's stay in the individual local districts and participation in local activities (Apostolopoulos and Sonmez 2001, Briassioulis 1993, Butler and Stiakaki 2001) and contribute to improving quality of life.

Greece is a country which can gather all the conditions for the development of rural tourism in view of the residential dispersion, Polynesian setting, decentralized monumental topography and varied landscape with diverse climatic conditions that

distinguish ([http://agrotourismos . wordpress.com /](http://agrotourismos.wordpress.com/)). In Greece forms of agrotourism are also 2 but with several differences:

1. Pure agrotourism - Guests except holidays and rest, have the ability to enjoy their daily farming operations and deal with them if they wish. The different forms of pure agrotourism are:
  - Agrotourism in areas of outstanding natural beauty
  - Agrotourism in island or coastal areas
  - Agrotourism in traditional settlements
  - Agrotourism near protected areas
  - Agrotourism accommodation in cooperative form
2. Composite agrotourism - Guests meet mainly specialized needs, which simultaneously refines and shape of the agrotourism in the region. Exemplifies mountain tourism (<http://agrotourismos.wordpress.com/>). The different forms of agrotourism complex are:
  - Agrotourism in areas with hot springs
  - Agrotourism in mountain villages
  - Agrotourism in rural areas with sports facilities
  - Agrotourism in camping sites (Camping)
  - Agrotourism for young children
  - Agrotourism centers passing tourists
  - Agrotourism in rural areas where cultural interests and intellectual pursuits associated with

All forms of agrotourism concerning Greece, located in rural areas. There the type of accommodation is mainly rooms in her house or farm family accommodation which are an extension of the home, either independently of the house rooms, to ensure the independence of the privacy of residents and visitors (K. D. Apostolopoulos, D. B. Sdrali 2009 & <http://agrotourismos.wordpress.com/>).

The broad objectives of agrotourism include (Theodoropoulos, 2006):

- achieve cooperation in the primary, the secondary and tertiary sectors of each region in order to meet the growing demand due to visitor satisfaction
- regional development and the creation of infrastructure to enable access and hosting of visitors

- development initiatives in rural communities, in order to highlight the inherent strengths to create new activities
- The effort of environmental burdens to the extent feasible, due to the increased number of visitors
- The effort to keep the local population in those regions that agritourism is more efficient
- Utilization while preserving the cultural and local elements of the national heritage
- The opportunity to share crafts and craft beyond the confines of the rural area
- The satisfaction of visitors to the quiet and cheap vacation close to nature
- The involvement of local authorities and partnerships for the promotion and development of the region

### **Ecotourism**

In recent years the tourism sector there is an awareness of environmental issues and switching to sustainable tourism development. Tourism is in close dependence on the natural environment, as is the supply of resources required to utilize to produce economic, cultural and environmental benefits. Specifically, ecotourism is scope to link tourism with sustainable development that provides an alternative to tourism development friendly to the environment.

The definition of ecotourism as given by the National Ecotourism (2002): "Tourism is growing in ecologically valuable areas (...) does not exceed the carrying capacity of the region, promote the protection and management of natural and cultural environment in accordance with legal or other effective measures, while maintaining the cohesion of the social fabric. "

Ecotourism includes all forms of tourism related to nature and are basic motivation of visitors to the observation and appreciation of nature and traditional cultures prevailing in the respective areas. Usually is organized in small groups consisting of specialized small local businesses. The activity of ecotourism by region minimizes negative impacts on the natural and social environment, supporting the protection of natural areas:

- producing economic benefits for local communities
- providing alternative employment and income opportunities for local communities
- increasing the sensitivity of local communities and visitors to the conservation of natural and cultural assets

Ecotourism is based on the principles of sustainable tourism, actively contribute to conservation of natural and cultural heritage, including local communities in planning, and the development seeks to conquer prosperity. At the same time, ecotourism aims to provide better services to visitors but organized and independent travelers.

Ecotourism highlighted the values of nature conservation, the beauty of cultural heritage, preservation of social cohesion and prosperity of societies. Additionally, the contribution of ecotourism lies in emphasizing the importance of enjoyment of nature and participation in local events and travelers but also in promoting the value of environmental awareness and education at national and international level. Already workable actions of ecotourism have contributed positively to biodiversity conservation and protected areas.

### **Agricultural products**

Another development perspective for agriculture in mountainous areas, it emerges through the development and course of traditional agricultural products. The products contribute to the local economy and wider local development through the quality, specificity, identity over time, thus creating a history and tradition of the place. Further contributes to local development by interfacing with other sectors of the economy, creating jobs, entrepreneurship and value.

The traditional agricultural products of the highlands is high quality, low volume production and careful control at all stages of production and processing. Ensuring high price, greatly enhance the income of farmers in mountainous areas (Ilbery and Maye, 2005). The demand for products and services of high quality, has contributed to maintaining population in mountainous areas, but also in maintaining the multicultural heritage (Tregear, 2003) and the traditional lifestyle (Gilg and Battlershill, 1998).

Local products can be considered as an appropriate instrument for rural development and particularly in mountain regions. EU legislation to Regulations 2081/92 and 2082/92, offers protection to both types of food and beverages:

- Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)
- Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)

The first type indicates that the product comes from a geographical area which gives specific quality characteristics, which are due to the particular geographical environment with its characteristic natural and human factors. The second type indicates the specific geographic region, which is characterized by quality and reputation, but not necessarily from the natural environment. The definition of PDO is exclusive and powerful than that of PGI.

Priority for the European Union is Greece, which lists 103 PDO and PGI 146, among them 20 cheeses, 10 and 27 olives oils, vegetables, fruits, legumes, one bakery and one fish preparation. Equally rich is the list of recognized traditional alcoholic drinks such as raki and ouzo. However on this list are continually added and other products (<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer/2012-02-02-07-52-07/ellinikaproionta.html>).

### **The role of young people**

Under the conditions increasingly repackaged for the agricultural sector, farmers employed, but generally people in rural mountain areas face a number of challenges related to the production process affecting completely on their financial situation. It has been shown that cooperative activities, they lack dynamics without the qualification and training of the members of each cooperative society (Apostolopoulos, 2006).

The rural people of Greece, in the context of sustainable development, must become absolute manager of farms, a trader farmer able to produce quality products, environmentally friendly and competitive to the market ([http://www.ogeekadimitra.org.gr / home.htm](http://www.ogeekadimitra.org.gr/home.htm)). The young people of rural areas are hoping to adopt innovations and promote activities for expanding the economic base, regardless of Agriculture (Papadaki - Klavdianou and Yiasemi, 1991), ensuring its future sustainability. The role of young people in mountainous and disadvantaged areas, also

includes the promotion of activities to enhance employment opportunities, which are limited. When young people leave the countryside, will inevitably led to economic decline.

A prerequisite for achieving sustainability is changing attitudes. Through concerted initiatives focusing on education and training, can be made positive results. Farmers in mountainous and remote areas, have difficulties in access and attendance at training programs. This makes them pessimistic about the future of agriculture, as evidenced by research conducted in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Greece and is part-financed program of the EU Farm Forward (<http://www.farmforward.com/>). The survey was conducted in 2008, ran from May to July with a total sample 131 people employed in agriculture and 89 trainers. According to the survey results, workers in the agricultural sector are lagged behind in technological and communicative knowledge and access to the internet. Moreover, the training courses have occasionally watched, were based solely on traditional teaching, using written and audiovisual material.

The creation, the development and sustainability of cooperative actions in mountainous areas and communities, are supported by the technology, which nowadays contribute greatly to local producers by establishing new and scientists on the need for new materials and machinery (Durant, 1999). General human capital, and individual characteristics such as age and education level, play a catalytic role in the development of sustainability (D 'Souza et al).

### **4.3 Conclusions**

Sustainable development in the various cases and non-mountainous areas, it is not always feasible. However, it is useful as an analytical tool because it allows a thorough review of the various financial options. This is effort to integrate environmental considerations into development policies and is an attempt of compromise between development and environment. Generally implies a reduction in the speed of economic growth. Is a vague concept, but a dynamic slogan, which theoretically has adopted both by governments and by NGOs.



## **CHAPTER 5: Viable development in mountain areas**

Taking into account the geomorphologic and human-centred, the Greek space divided internally by a strong spatial dimension and discontinuity with islands and mountains. Greece is in its entirety, most coastal, insular and mountainous country in Europe<sup>4</sup>, but has significant political development of the islands and in case of mountainous areas.

The importance of mountainous areas for Greece is twofold. The natural and cultural heritage consists of predominantly sets of extensive areas with a variety of fragile and sensitive natural and human ecosystems. At the same time, the heavy terrain slope and elevation gradients, create variations in climate zones so variety of ecosystems in a relatively small space.

### **5.1 Tourist development in mountain areas**

The highlands have always been important poles of attraction and interest for much of the world's population because of the benefits that have the same, namely a rich natural environment, especially local architecture, different lifestyle, interesting culture and traditions. Moreover, these areas may be developed through sustainable development and exploitation of natural resources in conjunction with the adoption of mild activities to the environment. The prominent resources of these areas can be exploited in such a way as to enhance the competitiveness and dynamics of the prerequisite, the active participation of residents.

According to Chatzigeorgiou and Stefanou (2006), the mountainous countryside because of the rich natural environment and the remarkable cultural heritage features is potentially a competitive tourist destination. The mountain tourism is potentially a model of sustainable tourism development, so it is appropriate that the mountainous landscape to be studied in its natural, social, economic and cultural dimensions. In mountainous areas, is taken seriously the measure of tourism capacity which is associated with the limits of physical, social and economic environment. Indeed, the determination depends on the counting of physical, cultural, environmental and other factors.

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<sup>4</sup> Most Greek islands have mountains and indeed, major mountain areas

The tourist activity in mountain areas is based on attracting visitors who are looking for traditional forms of hospitality, moments of rest and relaxation and activities that combine the physical element. Tourism activities in the mountains trying to bring the elements of the natural landscape, leisure activities of all kinds with the economic, social and cultural environment where integrated, configured and operated these tourist subsets (Gazes, 1992).

In Greece the growth model that aims to upgrade the role of mountain regions, expressed through the promotion of environmentally friendly forms of tourism. The highlands are gradually becoming popular and interesting destinations for tourists detaching an important part of tourism. So are developed in parallel other activities, such as agrotourism, the touristic tourism and mountain biking among others. So far, the tourism development in mountain regions Greek has positively influenced by several factors (Camille, 2001):

- The increase of overnight stays of domestic tourists in the mountain counties. Illustration the Peloponnese gathers 57%, Mainland Greece percentage 61.7% and Western Macedonia 87.8% of all nights. This development is due to the development of ski resorts and stimulating travel short duration sports and ecological content and character
- The majority of trips made Greek population in inland areas
- International trends challenge the model of mass tourism, along with the increased interest of man on the environment, the quest for authenticity, calm and healthy living
- The steady strengthening of rural tourism in the 1990s thanks to a large number of programs aimed at developing the Greek countryside and end
- The dynamic development of eco-tourism, where natural resources and biodiversity of Greece pushing its growth.

Additionally, according to Keane and Quinn (1990) possible impacts of tourism on mountain areas are (K. D. Apostolopoulos, KD Sdrali 2009:48):

<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>
Encourage the improved resource efficiency	Creating hostility of locals
Strengthening of the local income	Changes in local and cultural values
Preservation of cultural heritage	Decline the local language and customs
Rural Environment Protection	Marginalization of local products
Increase in foreign exchange revenues	Harmful changes in the rural landscape
Creation of social and economic change	Strengthening of social differences

**Table 11: Positive and Negative impacts of tourism**

### **5.1.1 Alternative forms of tourism**

In recent years tourism turns to a more qualitative way. The consumer - visitor became more demanding and more sophisticated, looking for new products and new destinations. At the same time, appear more sensitive to environmental issues, claiming energetically recreation, abandoning the model of passive visitor. There is then a gradual shift to new forms of tourism which appeared alongside the organized, mass tourism to meet the market needs.

According to chairman of Agro SA, Ms. Papastaurou (2004), "alternative tourism is a new modern tourist product that acts as a key driver in the new strategy of sustainable tourism development and is both holistic rejuvenation model mountainous and remote regions of the country".

According to the Tsartas (2001) tourism is found in the following formats:

- Social tourism
- Social tourism professional knowledge
- Agrotourism (various types)
- Tourism in the countryside
- Naturalist tourism
- Tourism elderly
- Sports tourism
- Touring

- Ecotourism
- Health tourism and natural life
- Exhibit tourism
- Congress tourism
- Winter Tourism
- Mountain Tourism
- Nudist tourism
- Adventure tourism etc.

The main types of mild tourist development that can successfully grow in mountainous areas is agrotourism, ecotourism, religious tourism, touristic tourism and adventure tourism.

## **5.2 Necessary the sustainable tourism for the mountain areas**

In light of the problems created by the systematic exploitation of some tourist areas with massive accumulation of tourists, was born of the need for a tourism different character. Respect towards the natural and cultural environment reflects the different approach to tourism, to promote economic, social and cultural sustainability. This approach is feasible to promote sustainable, sustainable tourism which involves the development of new forms of tourism that are compatible with the environment.

According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the development of sustainable tourism is mandatory to meet the needs of tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing future opportunities. It is possible that this growth leads to management of all resources in such a way as to meet the economic, social and aesthetic needs while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes and biological diversity. The products of sustainable tourism, work in harmony with the local environment, society and cultures in order to reap all the benefits and not the victims of tourism development (coastlearn.org, 2011).

Sustainable tourism development and management is feasible in all forms of tourism in all regions of destination. The principles of sustainability must be consistent with the environmental, economic and social conditions of tourism development. That requires the adoption of an appropriate balance between these

three dimensions to be a long-term viability (Theodoropoulou, 2006). Thus, sustainable tourism should:

- To maximizes the benefit of the natural environment is important for tourism development, while maintaining ecological processes with the natural heritage and biodiversity of the area
- To respect the social heritage and uniqueness of the destination area, to help maintain the traditions and customs and understand and accept the cultural differences of each place visited
- To support long-term economic and political activities that create opportunities for good income, stable employment and social services while contributing to the fight against poverty in local communities destination

The basic principles for sustainable tourism development first made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio, Brazil in 1992 and finalized at the World Congress in Lanzarote, Spain (Kokkosis and Tsartas, 2001) is as follows:

- Sustainability in tourism development must be environmentally friendly in present and future, ecologically sustainable and socially equitable for local communities
- Tourism is a need to harmonize with the natural, cultural and human environment
- Tourism should be concerned about the effects on cultural heritage and tradition of society
- Active participation of tourism in sustainable development, requires joint actions and participation in them by all actors in the public and private sectors and effective coordination mechanisms at all levels (local, regional and national)
- The protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural environment requires cooperation on cultural, technological, professional and organizational innovations, including the development of tools for integrated planning and management of tourism development
- The primary objectives in tourism development should be the maintenance of the tourist destination and the service capacity of tourists in a strategy for sustainable development

- It is necessary to link tourism and the expansion of opportunities for local communities
- Tourism should contribute effectively to improving the quality of life for all and the enrichment of each destination
- Central management and related stakeholders with participation of local communities and NGOs, should take actions for the benefit of integrated planning of tourism development
- Priority should be given to actions that contribute to the protection and enhancement of the environment and the mechanisms of integration of environmental costs in investment and interventions for tourism
- Environmentally and culturally sensitive areas should be given special care
- Seeking alternative forms of tourism should be given to those who promote prospects for sustainable development with respect to the natural and cultural environment
- A special attention should be paid to the dissemination and exchange of experience and knowledge measures and technologies that have as their core the tourism sustainable development strategy
- The policy of sustainable development in tourism requires the support and promotion of tourism management systems, environmentally friendly
- Particular attention should be given to the role and impact of transport, use of alternative energy and waste management on the environment
- The adoption and implementation of environmentally friendly ethics is very important for all actors and participants in tourism
- The sensitization is important in order to apply all the above target

Sustainable tourism development requires the participation of the local community and important policy decisions that will contribute to forming partnerships with relevant stakeholders with a view to building tourism development with respect for the environment.

The acquisition and maintenance of sustainable tourism is a continuous process that requires constant monitoring of the current situation and propose appropriate measures where appropriate. Sustainable tourism is necessary to satisfy all guests and offer interesting experiences, aiming to raise awareness for

sustainability and support best practices for sustainable tourism development with respect for the environment.

### **5.3 Entrepreneurship, participation in agriculture and cooperatives**

The creation and development cooperation in the mountainous areas, especially in the rural economy has shown significant results. The existence of such collaborations, changing the mindset of rural mountain areas, in relation to the management of their resources to improve the quality of their products and services but also in relation to the impact of local camaraderie substantial improvement in their income (Francis et al, 1997).

Creating collaborative circles, called clusters, contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in agriculture and livestock. Partnerships at the local level can take place as business activity and as a lever to improve the quality of life and culture of the region (Uphoff, 1993 & Grootaert, 1998).

According to Pretty and Ward (2001) the basic characteristics of cooperation in mountain areas are:

- Local links (local connections) are strong ties between the people of the local community
- The links between places, horizontal relationships between individual local associations and local communities
- Local and external links, vertical relationships between local groups and external organizations, with one-way or two-way communication
- Links between external factors (external connections), horizontal relationships between external organizations aiming and generate cooperation of external factors
- External links are strong relationships between individuals within external organizations

Continuously designed and implemented new models of motivation and attendance for the space of agricultural production in mountainous areas. In Greece, all models used the term "Advisory Agriculture". The Greek state plays an important

role in the development and sustainability of agriculture in upland areas, as the decisions and actions have a direct impact, both economic and social in those areas.

Research both at national and international level; support the encouragement of farmers through the development of new opportunities and changes in the effect of the decisions taken on participatory activities. In rural participatory activities, decisions are taken by scientists from official bodies (ministries and regions) and farmers directly linked to production (Lilja and Ashby, 1999).

### **Agricultural cooperatives and development in mountain areas**

Agricultural cooperatives are an essential element in the development of rural areas and in this case the upland areas. Cooperatives in mountainous areas directly related to the structure of the regional economy of the region and the food market. This is viable businesses with services necessary for Greek farmers. A cooperative increases the bargaining power of the farmers themselves, creates economies of scale, achieve cheaper inputs and better prices for their products, prevents middlemen warping interim and final values, creating new financial products to support the rural economy, promote new investment alliances promotes innovative and quality products, and brings together the producer with the consumer.

Establishing rural cooperative required, drafting statutes, the signature of at least 7 people who qualify under the relevant article of the law, and approval by the County Court seat of the cooperative. Also, the recording, the departure, the obligations and rights of the members to each cooperative and to third parties, provided the articles of law. Each member participates in the cooperative share (the minimum amount of participation) and has one vote. The governing bodies are the General Assembly and the Board. The General Assembly decides on any issue for which there is no other competent body. Such cases are the amendment of the Constitution, the election and removal of directors, etc. The board represents the association and is responsible for all matters relating to the administration of the cooperative, the management of property and affairs.



## **The role of women and entrepreneurship of mountainous areas**

Sustainable rural development in the context of the wider sustainable development, promote social equity, by which it appears in this case the role of women in achieving. The social equality incorporates policies on the role of both women and young people. Sustainable development due to its complexity, is interwoven with the equality of opportunity for women, which are more efficient in certain business activities and generally to generate income derived from agricultural operations. The role of women in the production process is increased in Greece (Iakovidou, 2000) but also in the world.

The role of rural women has always been crucial both for the development of rural families and rural society. The woman's role is focused on activities inside and outside the home. The emergence and strengthening of its role, thus the change of social and professional position reached on the initiative of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. The GSGE urged the women of rural areas to engage in non-agricultural activities, namely rural tourism and agricultural cooperatives.

Between rural cooperatives, especially women's cooperatives, and rural tourism observed apparent connection. The ability of rural women to evolve through rural tourism, due to characteristics that floating around, care, communication, cleanliness, awareness, love, creativity and entrepreneurship. Women have learned to deal with multiple objects simultaneously, thus participating in each cooperative, acquire the ability to obtain their personal income and feel independent and successful.

However, despite the initiative GSGE, the first women's cooperatives were established to help women in family income rather than independence and robustness. In the 1990s, the government agencies utilize community programs for gender equality, promoted by the European Union, encouraging thus the development of a significant number of women's cooperatives. The cooperative movement has since evolved rapidly.

At national and international level, female entrepreneurship is the last year a dynamically rising phenomenon. The variety of businesses that develop, contributing to the stability and resilience of local economies and highlights a new role for women in the ever-changing economic environment. At the local level, particularly in the rural and mountainous areas, entrepreneurship estimated as a means of access for

women to the labor market and their integration in the process of integrated local development (Gidarakou, 2008).

Today, the woman farmer has multiple roles. Involved in agricultural work, while maintaining the role of mother and wife, cares and contributes positively to the economic development of her place. Surveys show that the profile of a woman entrepreneur who is active in the countryside, is married with children and starts running the business at the age of 30-45 years (Iakovidou et al. 2006: 123).

## **5.4 Conclusions**

Tourism is a multidimensional phenomenon that affects the structure and environment of the areas which develop and affect the deepest desires of all people. At the same time, consists one of the most dynamic and quickly growing sectors of the global economy.

Rural areas still have limited opportunities of business development for both sexes. In recent years, however, the agricultural policy and regional policy support and promote the multi-functionality of rural areas. The diversity of local economies in rural areas but also changes in the preferences of tourists has created business opportunities for the countryside, mainly through rural and women's cooperatives. The survival and further development of cooperatives can be greatly enhanced by networking them.

## CHAPTER 6: Conclusions

The mountainous areas are hatched particular culture adapted to the local natural ecosystem, away from the civilization of cities, almost isolated because of the terrain. The living conditions were very difficult. The inhabitants of mountainous areas were forced to live alone and only produce all necessary for living resources. Adjusting their needs to the limitations of the natural environment and making the best use of the opportunities it offered, they succeeded.

The traditional mountain societies are normally closed. Strictly customs and traditions sustain social structures and maintained by them. The geographic isolation prevents easy contact with other cultures and societies will inevitably makes the closed microcosm them averse to new. Self-sufficiency and unadulterated timeless preservation of cultural identity, are the positive aspects of isolation.

Main occupation of the inhabitants of all mountain areas is farming, forestry and limited cultivation of land in small areas. These activities are favored by local geomorphologic conditions (poor soil, abundant woodland). At the same time are developed techniques (building), the arts (woodcarving, weaving, and painting), various services and trade. It is often observed spatial variation in specialization in individual professions, but the result of social and environmental aspects are, sometimes featuring groups of villages.

The devastation of areas creates risks of environmental degradation, which can be mitigated by rational human activity. The maintenance and enhancement of the human environment is satisfactory, satisfactory but unevenly across the mountain area. There are needs for further interventions for the social environment.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is longer than the mid-80s, the standard basis of outlining the national land policy in rural areas, and in the mountainous and disadvantaged areas summarized in strengthening some modern or traditional crops, strengthening specific livestock and forestry techniques and projects and the promotion of alternative forms of tourism. The CAP, i.e. all the rules relating to the structure of agriculture and the movement of agricultural products within the Community, modeled on the lines of the Treaty of Rome and the harmonization of Member States' authorities is compulsory (Maravegias 1992).

In the original version of the CFP, a movement of organized based on the preference of foreign progressive realization of a single market within the Community

and joint financial responsibility. The measures aimed at supporting intra products and achieving self-sufficiency in the Community. In the early 1980s, the first priority was the need to conserve resources from the EU budget for development objectives, in particular, such as research and technology.

The reform was implemented in 1999. As mentioned in the text of the reform (European Commission 2000a, b) and in Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 (UN Commission for Sustainable Development 1992) which refers to "sustainable agriculture" and regional development, basic principles of the new rural development policy summarized in the promotion and enhancement of the multifunctional nature of agriculture, ie the variety of roles beyond food production, diversification of agricultural activities in order to create new sources of income and employment, promotion of decentralization and simplification of legislation.

The progress and development of the Greek agricultural sector is essential to solve the underlying structural problems facing the modernization of farms and farming practices and infrastructure, and the selection of varieties with good yield and high quality. The rational use of inputs and proper management of water resources can also contribute to improving and maintaining the area. Due to population leaving the mountain area and its natural disadvantages, rural policy geared mainly for allowance payments.

The development in mountain areas due to exceptional peculiarities of physical and socioeconomic reality cannot be clearly defined. Instead, it is required to have an existence and meaning, be multidimensional and multifunctional and ensures both timeless multiple employment of their inhabitants, and their ability to live a worth-living, in all levels of life. The development of a mountainous region, to gain status and to last, it must be ensured for all its inhabitants and for all time, both in economic, social, political, cultural and technological level.

Only Integrated Development can give meaning to mountainous areas, with counterparts initiatives, projects, programs and actions, voluntary and co-coordinated collectives of residents, their local and regional authorities, universities in the region, the scientific and the social agencies and labor organizations. The collectives are the only ones who at least theoretically, can share their values, principles, methods and techniques of a truly worth-living development of mountain areas and to realizing because they know, experience or have experienced in the past, more and better each other, problems, needs and priorities to address them.

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